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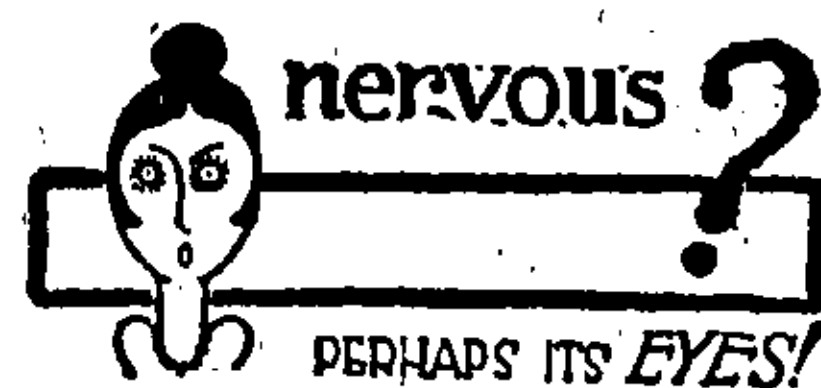
China Mail

ESTABLISHED
1846

TO-DAY'S DOLLAR. — The closing rate of the dollar on demand, to-day was 1/8 3/16.

No. 27,361 HONG KONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1929.

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WEDDING CEREMONY PUT OFF

PROSPECTIVE BRIDEGROOM GOES TO JAIL
CHINESE ARMY OFFICER

"He was too greedy. Had he not been so greedy he could have got away with the whole lot" remarked Detective Inspector Fallon at the Kowloon Magistrate's court today when a Chinese, described as a lieutenant in the Chinese Army, was charged before Mr. W. Schofield with the theft of three watches and an earring, the property of a Chinese actor manager living at the Kum Toi Hotel, Nathan Road.

A second man was also in the dock connected with the charges but, on the first man asserting that the other had nothing to do with it, he was discharged and the case was proceeded with against the first accused.

Detective Inspector Fallon stated that the complainant lived in room 63 and it appeared that the accused took the next room, 62. On Wednesday, when the complainant had left his room for a little while, the thief entered the room. He must have made two trips when he was about it, because when he was

FULL PIRACY STORY

A full report of the piracy of the steamer "Haining" is published in the "Overland China Mail," together with special photographs of the vessel before and after the attack.

The usual Pictorial Supplement is also included in this week's "Overland China Mail" which is now ready.

To avoid disappointment orders, which will be fulfilled in strict rotation, should be sent in at once.

discovered by the manager the watches could not be found. They were later found in the accused's coat pocket hanging up in his room.

Man of Many Jobs
Asked by the Magistrate what he did, the accused said that he was a student of the Whampoa Academy, and from that place he joined the army. He rose from the rank of petty officer to lieutenant, and had held many other positions in the army. His next post was that of Private Secretary to the District Magistrate (Mr. Cheng Kai-chung) in the Po On district. He went with Mr. Cheng to Shanghai, where he spent much money. At that place his people wrote to him to say that he was to be married soon in the country, so he came down and as he had hardly any money left well.

Having reached that far, the defendant still had more to relate. His last post was that of private secretary to the Captain Superintendent of Police ("Au Young-kui") at Canton.

Go to the Front
At the conclusion of his story Mr. Schofield said (to the Interpreter): As an army officer, he should go to the front and distinguish himself there!

The accused: I am on vacation now from the army, so as to get married.
The Magistrate: I am afraid the wedding will have to be put off! Two months' hard labour.

CAME FOR WIFE

Fate Of A Returned Banishee

Tam On was at the Kowloon Magistrate's court today before Mr. W. Schofield charged with returning before the banishment term of 10 years had expired.

Asked by the Magistrate why he came back, the accused said he came to fetch his wife.

His Worship: I see that you have two previous convictions for stealing. Yes, after you had been banished last year, you returned in April.

Then you came out of jail between September and October. Yes. Sentence of eight months' hard labour and 15 strokes of the stick was passed. The wife of the prisoner then came forward and said that they were just going to leave the country, by the Canton boat when her husband was arrested.

BRITISH TROOPS LEAVE RHINE

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SPEAKS TO GERMAN CITIZENS
BETTER UNDERSTANDING

Wiesbaden, Yesterday.
The British Rhineland occupation has ended. The Union Jacks on the British General Headquarters were hauled down, and local representatives of the German Government took over control.—Reuter.

Ceremony of Departure
Rugby, Yesterday.
At two o'clock this afternoon the British flag was lowered at the Hohenzollern Hotel, Wiesbaden, announcing the end of eleven years of British occupation of the Rhine Territory. The ceremony of departure took place in the presence of the British Commander-in-Chief, General Sir William Thwaites, and the French Commander-in-Chief, General Guillaumat.

After the general parade at which music was provided by military bands, the last body of British troops left for England, travelling via Saarbrücken.

Farewell Speech
General Thwaites speaking in German from the steps of the Town Hall, bade farewell to the assembled citizens of Wiesbaden. He said, "Since we came into this zone you Germans and we English have worked together in delicate circumstances. It has not been pleasant to you and it has not been easy for us, but I feel we can congratulate each other upon our behaviour to each other. The memory of our long sojourn in your wonderful Rhineland will always remain with us. Our life here has helped us to understand the German people better. You on your part have learned to understand the sterling qualities of the British soldier."—British Wireless Service.

POLICE SERGEANT CHARGED

SEQUEL TO DEATH OF CHINESE WOMAN

A WEEK'S REMAND

Originally charged before Mr. A. W. G. H. Grantham, on December 4, with causing serious injury to a Chinese woman whom he was alleged to have kicked in the stomach, Shantung Police Sergeant Pi Shih-hsu faced a charge of manslaughter this morning as the result of the woman's death at the Government Civil Hospital on December 7.

The assault was stated to have occurred on December 3, the allegation against the Sergeant being that he kicked the woman in the course of a struggle which occurred between the two whilst, it was admitted, the Sergeant was performing his duty.

The accused's version of the affair was that he had gone to the woman's house to interview her son regarding some trouble. The woman had obstructed him in the execution of his duty, and came by her injury accidentally.

It was stated that the woman's condition was aggravated by an internal disease and death ensued. When the case was mentioned this morning, Mr. F. C. E. Rendall asked for a week's adjournment in order to prepare the defence.

The Magistrate granted the application, giving bail in the sum of \$250 in cash and two sureties of \$50 each.

STOP PRESS

Nanking, To-day.

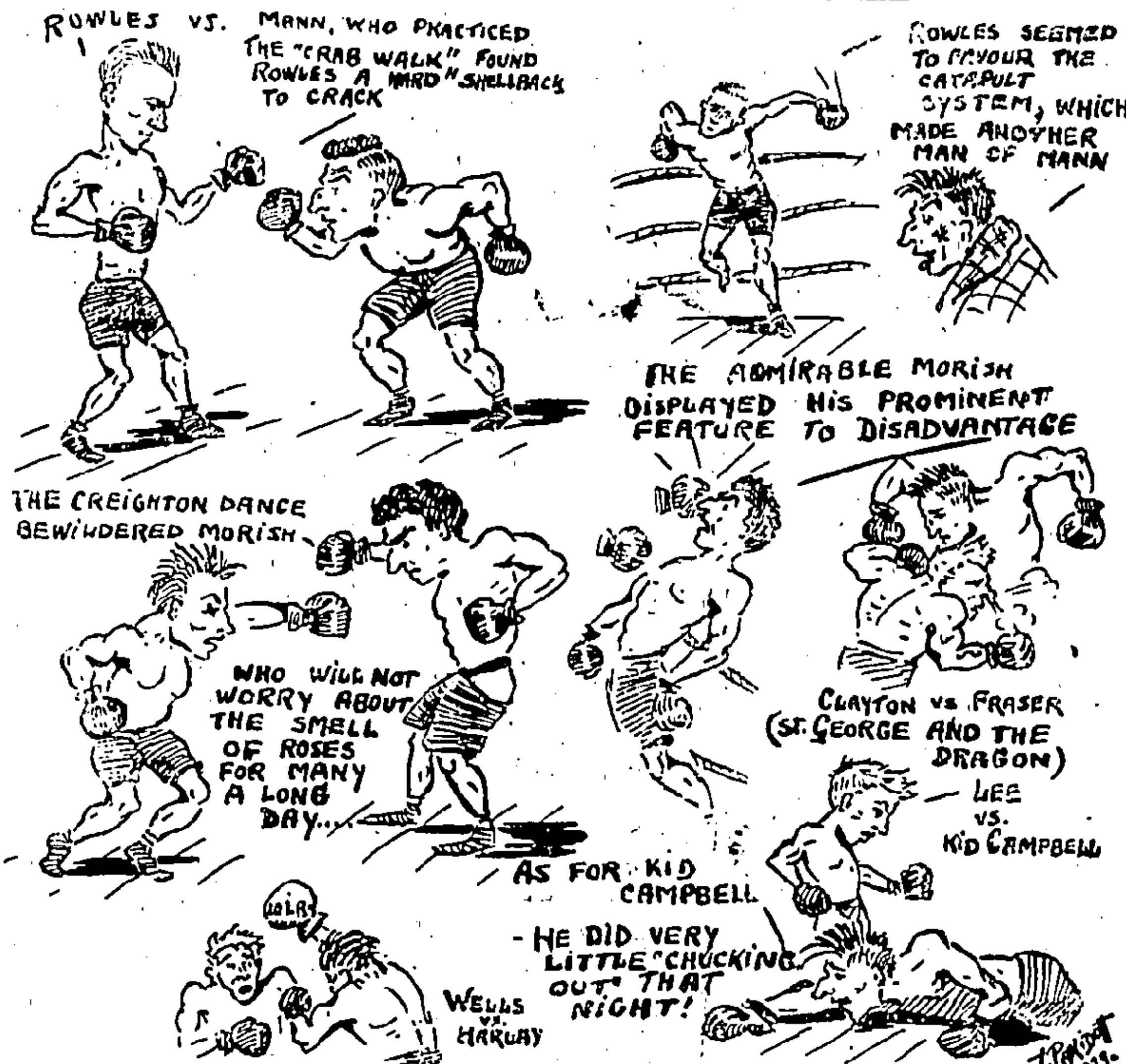
The latest developments indicate that the Government's position is stronger than it appeared two days ago.

The decision of the Central Kuomintang to expel Wang Ching-wei from the party and the publishing of four telegrams between Chiang Kai-shek and Yen Hsi-shan, wherein the latter expresses his loyalty to Nanking, are regarded here as proving that the Nanking Government is not going immediately on the rocks as has been predicted.

The decision to expel Wang Ching-wei is regarded as proof that the Government is determined to defend Canton and hence see no reason for coming to a compromise with the Leftists.

The Government is actively preparing for a campaign against Tang Tseng-chao.

BOXING AT THE CITY HALL



BRITISH RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

MISUNDERSTANDING CLEARED AWAY BY ENTENTE
—THE NAVAL CONFERENCE

Rugby, Yesterday.
Proposing the toast of France at a dinner of the United Association of Great Britain and France, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Foreign Secretary, reviewed the British and French relations. He related how misunderstanding began first to be cleared away by the Anglo-French entente. This salutary change had been greatly assisted by the institution of the League of Nations.

All through the early years of the League it was the French and British delegations which worked together to build it up. Differences of opinion made no difference to their fundamental co-operation.

Speaking of the forthcoming Five Power Naval Conference, Mr. Henderson recalled the following words used by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, when he was Premier in 1924, in a letter to M. Poincaré, the French Premier, "The condition of Europe can only, I feel convinced, be remedied by joint action between France and England, undertaken with full sympathy for their respective requirements and with wise regard for the interests of the world at large." That letter, said Mr. Henderson, led to great results.

It was in the spirit of that letter that he looked forward to the questions ahead. It was for such co-operation as we had with France in 1924 that he was now prepared.

The understanding which Mr. MacDonald happily reached with the President of the United States did not mean that we would go to the conference with any rigid or cut and dried proposals, taking account of British interests only. He earnestly hoped and believed that the other delegations would do the same and eschew rigid principles and formulas, and would come to the conference animated by a desire to arrive by a process of mutual conciliation at the greatest common measure of naval disarmament.

Mr. Henderson added, "Neither in this nor in any other part of the world disarmament problem are we interested in theories. We are interested only in results. Other delegations will find that we shall not be difficult, but, on the contrary, that we will work with them in all sincerity to reach the best agreement."—British Wireless Service.

DANGEROUS DRIVING

Summoned for dangerous driving in Nathan Road on November 25, the licensed Chinese driver of a Ford motor lorry was at the Kowloon Magistrate's court today fined \$10.

According to Traffic Inspector Nicol the defendant swerved in front of his car about two yards ahead when turning from Mongkok Road into Nathan Road. The defendant did not make the usual turning signal or sound his horn.

IRONSIDES' ROUT

FALLING BACK FOR RESPIRE
COUNTER-ATTACK CANTONESE READY FOR INITIATIVE

Having repulsed the invaders by converting the war of movement into one of positions, the Cantonese defenders of Canton consolidated their gains yesterday and fighting continued, with the Ironsides falling back—not in disorder—but trying very hard to get a respite in order to dig in if possible.

It will be recalled that the Ironsides struck first from north-east.

STATION BURNED

Trains From Kowloon Suspended

Information reached the "China Mail" this afternoon that the Shekha railway station has been set on fire. In consequence the express train from Kowloon to Canton this afternoon has been suspended.

Shekha is the 11th station from Canton (on the Chinese section of the line) being 32 1/4 miles from Canton, or about 80 miles from Hong Kong, being further than Sheklung. Express trains do not stop there. It is in the Tsangshing district and the neighbourhood of the station has for long been notorious for banditry, who are now probably taking advantage of the Government troops being engaged elsewhere against the Ironsides.

ward of Canton (where they attempted to outflank the Cantonese in preference to a frontal attack on the centre, down the Canton-Hankow Railway, Kwangtung section, because the Cantonese and their Northern reinforcements were in strength on this part).

An assault was also made on the so-called centre; and the Ironsides were beaten back in both places after both sides had suffered heavy casualties.

YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING
Yesterday the Cantonese continued to advance on the centre. Intermittent fighting continued all day, with the Ironsides retiring. (Continued on Next Column.)

1929 rainfall 69.40 inches
Average 22.43 inches
Deficit 12.03 inches

CHARGE AGAINST BRITISH SHIPPERS

"CONSPIRACY" COMPLAINT BY U.S. NAVIGATION COMPANY
DISMISSED BY COURT

New York, Yesterday.
The United States District Court dismissed a complaint by the United States Navigation Company, charging thirteen British steamship companies in the North Atlantic and United Kingdom at the freight conference with conspiracy to force it out of the Atlantic trade by their system of contract rates with shippers. The Court agreed that the defendants' contention in the matter should have been submitted to the Shipping Board.—Reuter's American Service.

It continued last night in a not too heavy counter-attack, the advantage lying with the Cantonese. Having repulsed the Ironsides from their system of defences around Canton, the Cantonese to the joy of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek's adherents in Nanking and elsewhere) are now moving out to press home the initial victory.

Accordingly, it is felt that sustained hostilities will be resumed almost immediately, so soon as the Cantonese get ready to strike. This might prove to be the deciding action of the campaign. If the Cantonese win—as they are expected to—the Ironsides will be in danger of total rout. If the Cantonese lose, they will fall back on their defence system, which the Ironsides failed to penetrate.

Meanwhile, unless the Kwangshits (at the confluence of the West and North Rivers) create a diversion or join hands with the Ironsides, the initiative will remain with the Cantonese.

Confirmation of the trend of the latest fighting is forthcoming in the following message from a reliable source in Canton:—

"It is reported that the Ironsides were heavily defeated yesterday at Yuan-tan and that they are retreating to Tsingyuen."

MORALE AT ZERO POINT

Canton, Yesterday.
Full details of Wednesday's battle are given in all the local papers, indicating that the losses to the enemy have been enormous and the morale of his troops is at zero point.

The plan of the Cantonese has been to induce the enemy to advance up to a certain point, when the order for general attack would be given on December 9, the order was issued to the troops. At the time, the Ironsides were facing the right wing of the Cantonese at Sun Tien, Chung San, and Chuang Fu line, while the Kwangshits were advancing against the Cantonese front line at Kung Tien, Kuo Tai and Chih Ni.

(Continued on Page 5)

MANCHURIAN WAR RESUMED

SOVIET TROOPS ATTACK AND BOMB POKOTU
JAPANESE PROPERTY

Mukden, Yesterday.
Official reports from Pokotu state that the Russians continue their military operations. The Chinese positions at Pokotu and Hsingan were attacked and bombed on December 11.

Consulate Bombed
Tokyo, Yesterday.
A message from Harbin to the Rengo agency states that the first information from Manchuli since the border town was occupied by the Soviets a month ago, has now been received here, reporting that the Japanese Consulate was bombed by Soviet planes and considerable damage done to Japanese property when Manchuli was occupied.—Reuter.

Soviet Advance

Shanghai, Yesterday.
A message from Harbin states that Russian refugees arriving there from Manchuli declare that on December 7 Russian aeroplanes bombed Manchuli, one bomb striking a Japanese hotel situated alongside the Japanese Consulate. The hotel proprietor was killed by the explosion.

It is reliably stated that Red troops now occupy Charomte, 35 miles east of Harbin, the furthest point yet reached by Soviet land forces.

The report adds that the Barga area, both north and south of the railway, is now under Mongol and Soviet influence. The Cheka is very busy there, searching for Russians who have been carrying on "White" propaganda across the border.—Reuter.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ARRIVES

MET IN LONDON BY FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL

SPEAKS NO ENGLISH!

London, Yesterday.
M. Gregory Sokolnikoff, the Soviet Ambassador to Great Britain, arrived here to-day and was met by a representative of the Foreign Office. He does not speak English and declined to make a statement but will probably issue one shortly.

A Turkish Move

Constantinople, Yesterday.
Karakhann has arrived in a Soviet torpedo boat at Angora as a guest of the Turkish Government.—Reuter.

The British Ambassador

Rugby, Yesterday.
The newly-appointed Russian Ambassador, Sokolnikoff, arrived in London to-night, and was met by a representative of the Foreign Secretary.

Sir Esmond Ovey, the newly appointed British Ambassador to Russia, arrived in Moscow this morning and was duly received by a representative of the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs.—British Wireless Service.

REFORM BILL

Vienna, Yesterday.

The Constitutional Reform Bill as approved by the Austrian Federal Council, has come into force. President Miklas has requested the old Government under Herr Schober, to remain in office. The President, under the new Constitution, assumes the supreme command of the Federal Army.—Reuter.

SOME FOG

To-day's weather report from the Royal Observatory states:

An anti-cyclone is situated over S. Manchuria and a shallow depression over S. W. China.

Moderate to light, variable winds over the China Sea, with coastal fog.

Forecast:—E. winds, moderate to light; generally fair; some fog.

THE TEXT OF THE COAL MINES BILL

REGULATING SUPPLY BY CO-ORDINATING SCHEMES
THE MINERS' DEMANDS

Rugby, Yesterday.
The text of the Coal Mines Bill, which represents the Government's plan for solving the problems of the coal industry is issued. Part one deals with the marketing scheme. It proposes to regulate the production of supply and the sale of coal by means of a central co-ordination scheme for the whole of Britain, and district schemes for all the colliery districts.

The Bill contemplates that these schemes will be operated by the colliery owners themselves and it provides for the schemes being so framed as to ensure that within reasonable limits, the quantity of coal offered for sale by any colliery and the price charged for it shall accord with the state of the current demand.

Public Interests

Public interest is to be protected by the fact that all the details of every scheme require to be approved by the Board of Trade and further, by the formation of a National Committee of Investigation containing representatives of consumers.

CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT

The annual Christmas Supplement of the "China Mail" will be included in to-morrow's issue.

Better and brighter than ever, with Christmas stories and a comprehensive shopping guide, our Christmas Supplement should not be missed.

Orders for to-morrow's issue, including Christmas Supplement, will be fulfilled in strict rotation.

ers. If complaints reported by the Committee of investigation to the Board of Trade as to the operation of the scheme in any district are not rectified, the Board may make a new scheme for that district.

Penalties are prescribed for the contravention of this part of the bill. Part two contains a proposal for reduced hours, to which the coal-owners object. It is proposed that the eight hours day allowed by the Act passed by the Conservative Government in 1926 should be reduced to seven and a half hours on April 6.

Wages Regulation
Part three of the bill authorises the Board of Trade to set up a National Industrial Board to investigate any dispute as to the terms of the proposed agreement for the regulation of wages or other conditions of colliery workers.

At a meeting of the Miners' Executive to-day, it was decided to give unqualified support to the bill. While the Bill will encounter opposition from a section of Conservatives, because it reduces the miners' working hours, it is indicated that Liberals may oppose its marketing provisions on the ground that they would benefit industry at the expense of the consumers.—British Wireless Service.

A National Board

London, Yesterday.
The text, as issued, of the Government's Coal Mines Bill, does not differ materially from the proposals submitted to the owners and miners by the Government in September last, except that it establishes a national board (similar to the Railway National Wages Board) to meet the miners' demand for some safeguard in the event of district proposals to reduce wages.—Reuter.

Liberal Rejection

An official Liberal amendment will be moved for the rejection of the Coal Mines Bill when it comes up for a second reading on December 17 on the ground that it does nothing to promote the re-organisation of the coal industry, or secure a reduction of the costs of production through higher efficiency, but, on the contrary, that it will give statutory vested interests to inefficient pits and curtail the production of efficient pits, and subsidise the coal supplied by competing manufacturers abroad, while increasing the price of British industries, and heavily burdening consumers generally.

The House of Commons will adjourn on December 24, and resume on January 21, 1930.—Reuter.

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A WEEK'S PAPERS IN ONE.

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Bliss Bay's latest contribution to the history of piracy in this part of the world might appear even more fantastic than some of the exploits of the Spanish Main. Those who really came into contact with the devils, however, including the gallant officers of the Mercantile Marine, will be able to give testimony to the utter ruthlessness of the "singing" gang, who were repelled and, later, chased off by the Royal Navy. Not only to impress people at Home, but to provide them with more than interesting reading should send an account of the affair.

The "Overland China Mail," the only illustrated weekly budget published in Hong Kong, contains a critique of the attack, counter-attack and other incidents of "Haiching." *Special pictures have been included.* The magazine has been enhanced and the supply limited. It is filled your requirements before it is too late. The matter can be cut out, if necessary, and sent to a folk. Hong Kong's imagination has been captured. That of folks in the Old Country has been captured. A copy of the "Overland" is sure to be appreciated.

There is much else in the "Overland." Readers will find out what has occurred at Nanking — to necessitate the evacuation of non-Chinese women and children, including the wives of Britons. The horrors of war in China will be brought home to those who see the short versions in the newspapers. Sympathy will be evoked for those in the danger zone — of which there are more than one. In this short this week's "Overland" is well worth sending to you. The cost is little. If it is too much trouble, I will send you an order with the "Overland China Mail" and everything will be done for you.

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by the most ardent
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pleasure and interest its we
arrival brings.

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yourself posted with affairs dur
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Opposite entrance H.K. Hotel.

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MASTERS & AGENTS.**

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C.2560—No. 36, Tung Man Street.

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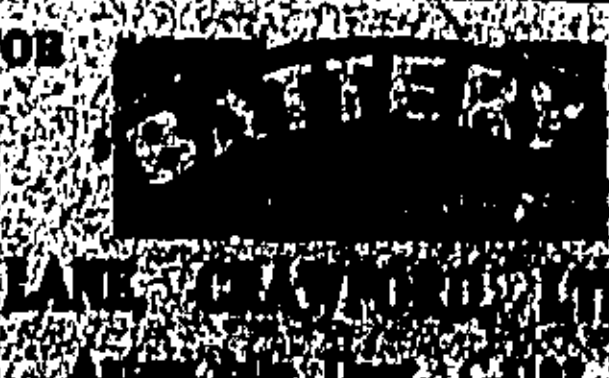
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GUNS AND
ACCESSORIES.**

GUNS:—Greener, Webley & Scott, B.S.A., J. W. Needham & Raik Fraser.—Air Rifles—Revolvers. B. & W.—Rifle Accessories. Aperture Sights—Sporting requisites. Cartridges to suit all bore.

THE HONG KONG SPORTING ARMS & AMMUNITION STORE
2-4, Becclesfield Arcade.



LANE CRAWFORD LTD

PUBLIC AUCTIONS.**PUBLIC AUCTION.**

PARTICULARS & CONDITIONS
of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 16th day of December, 1929, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor of one Lot of Crown Land at Shamshuipo, in the Colony of Hong Kong, for a term of 75 years, commencing from 1st July, 1898, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 24 years less three days.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Lot.	Boundary Measurements.	Containing in Sq. Feet.	Annual Rental.	Upst. Price.
1.	ft. ft. ft. ft. ft.	About		
As per sale plan.		15,800	108	51-7-6

**PUBLIC AUCTION.**

PARTICULARS & CONDITIONS
of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 16th day of December, 1929, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of one Lot of Crown Land at Wong Nei Chung, in the Colony of Hong Kong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 24 years less three days.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Lot.	Boundary Measurements.	Containing in Sq. Feet.	Annual Rental.	Upst. Price.
1.	ft. ft. ft. ft. ft.	About		
As per sale plan.		14,000	94	22-7-6

**PUBLIC AUCTION.**

PARTICULARS & CONDITIONS
of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 16th day of December, 1929, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of one Lot of Crown Land at Shamshuipo, in the Colony of Hong Kong, for a term of 75 years, commencing from 1st July, 1898, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 24 years less three days.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Lot.	Boundary Measurements.	Containing in Sq. Feet.	Annual Rental.	Upst. Price.
1.	ft. ft. ft. ft. ft.	About		
As per sale plan.		4,500	22	6-7-6



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THE SUN CO. LTD.

NOTICES.

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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

WITH reference to the Notice to Shareholders dated 7th November, 1929, announcing the resolution of the Board of Directors to offer to Shareholders Additional Shares in the proportion of one Additional Share of the nominal value of \$5 for every four existing Shares of which they are the registered holders on the date of the Ordinary Yearly Meeting, i.e., 21st December, 1929, Shareholders are hereby notified that the Directors of the Company have now decided that the offer of the Additional Shares shall be made to Shareholders in respect of the existing Shares of which they are the actual registered holders on the 11th JANUARY, 1930, instead of on the 21st December, 1929.

In consequence of this decision, the date for payment of the first instalment of \$1 per share in respect of the Additional Shares has now been postponed from 2nd January, 1930, to 6th February, 1930, in the case of shareholders whose registered address is in the Colony of Hong Kong or the Far East. In the case of shareholders outside the Far East, the date for payment has been postponed from 2nd April, 1930, to 2nd May, 1930. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from Monday, 6th January, 1930, to Saturday, 11th January, 1930, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.
Hong Kong, 12th Dec., 1929.

NOTICE.

A BRIDGE and MAH-JONG DRIVE in aid of the Hong Kong Benevolent Society will be held at the Helena May Institute on MONDAY, December 16, 1929, from 3.30-6 p.m. A charge of \$2 will be made. Ladies who are willing to be responsible for a table are asked to communicate with Mrs. H. G. Sheldon, 25, Peak Mansions, before December 6. Tea will be provided free of charge. Come one—Come all.

LAMMERT BROS.

AUCTIONEERS, APPRAISERS
AND SURVEYORS.

Public Auctions.

THE Undermentioned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction

ON
SATURDAY, December 14, 1929,
commencing at 11 a.m.
at their Sales Room,
Duddell Street.

(for account of the concerned)
30 Cases Sewing Machines
5 Cases Gold Enamel Powder
1 Case Gelatine Capsules
7 Cases Spool Woolen Yarn
1 Case Buckles
8 Cases Printing Ink
2 Bales Leather Belting
6 Cases Umbrella Frames
14 Bales Woolen Yarn
8 Cases Dyes
3 Cases Hackshaw Frames
1 Case Packet Knives
1 Case Measuring Tapes
1 Case Films
6 Bales Hemp Thread
(all more or less damaged).
Terms:—Cash on Delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.
Hong Kong, Dec. 12, 1929.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction

ON
MONDAY, December 16, 1929,
commencing at 11 a.m.
at their Sales Room,
Duddell Street.

(for account of the concerned)
4 Cases Lamp Shades and Stands
15 Cases Lamp Shades and Fittings
18 Cases Coils and Accessories (all more or less damaged).
Terms:—Cash on Delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.
Hong Kong, Dec. 12, 1929.



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YATSI SHAWT FANLOU

**A CONFERENCE THAT
AVERTED A WAR.****CANON STREETER DESCRIBES
THE PAN-PACIFIC CONGRESS****RACE CONSCIOUSNESS**

A highly interesting address was delivered yesterday evening by Canon R. H. Streeter, D.D., and Fellow of the British Academy, at the Great Hall of the Hong Kong University.

International question, Canon Streeter said, took various broad forms. They arose through the clash of the different cultures of the East and West, through the increasingly complex economic state of the world, and in part through improved communication between the nations. These improved communications had the result of throwing masses of people into close contact with others of an unfamiliar culture and economic status, thus increasing national and racial consciousness.

In Europe national consciousness and economic differences had resulted in the Great War, and the people of Europe were still living under the terror that that experience might be repeated in an even more devastating form at no distant date.

The Next War

In the old days international relations were relatively simple, they were managed by princes and statesmen and warfare was in the main confined to professionals. Now-a-days war affected everyone, and in the next war, if there were one, there would be no distinction between combatant and non-combatant. International questions had, in consequence, become the concern of every one. In every country the majority of people were averse to war, but the fact that they desired peace did not mean that they could get it. Good intentions were enough. The causes of war must be foreseen and if possible removed.

The Pan-Pacific conference came into being because a number of people in China, Japan, the United States and Canada saw possibilities in the Pacific area which might lead to a war which would involve the whole world.

Public Opinion

Diplomatists were often abused on the score that they made war, but they had the same relation to the countries they served as a barrister had to his client. Public opinion in each country was the real power which was behind all questions of war.

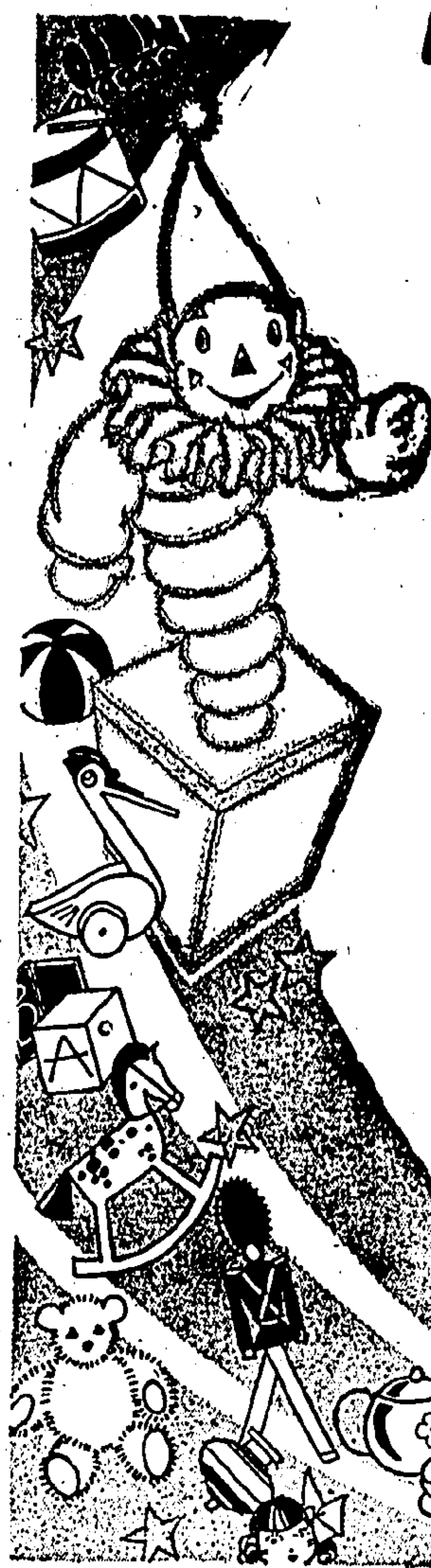
The small group of men who met at Kyoto had in mind the question of looking forward, or getting information, and seeing the implication of that information, so that they might pass this knowledge on to the thinking public of each nation and so influence public opinion to bring about harmonious co-operation between the nations in things cultural and economic. A good deal of this information was subsequently published in pamphlet form and is available to the general public.

Cultural Questions
The Conference opened with a discussion on cultural questions, and economic questions followed. Modern economic development they discovered was affecting the cultures of both East and West in a not dissimilar way, and was having a market effect in the East on the status of women. American relations with Japan, extraltry in China, and the Government and status of Shanghai, besides the Manchuria question were also discussed.

Absolute Frankness
It seemed to him that Hong Kong was a place where such discussions by local groups of men and women, not necessarily one group, but possibly groups of students and groups of senior people, would do much good. It was possible in such a place as Hong Kong to get people of all nationalities together, and it should be possible to meet from time to time and discuss with absolute frankness questions, political and economic, which had a bearing on international relations, and thus to form a local public opinion. After all, public opinion in Hong Kong was a thing which directly or indirectly might affect politics of more than one nation. There were people from all nations living in the Colony, and they also had academic institutions. On questions of cultural relations and the issues involved there must be people who could speak with knowledge and understanding. Obviously, of course, economic questions of the Pacific were as well understood in Hong Kong as anywhere else.

Orient v. Occident
A further reason why he thought the people of Hong Kong should try and form groups was because they could have groups of more than two nations. There were questions in which the Chinese and Japanese agreed against the British and America, and other questions in which Chinese and Japanese would differ, and so on. It was not, however, sufficient to have two groups, there must be four such groups at least.

(Continued at foot of next column)

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**VOLUNTEER DEFENCE
CORPS****ORDERS FOR THE ENSUING
WEEK****CAMP AT FANLING**

Orders by Lieut.-Colonel L. G. Bird, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commandant.

Camp Attendance Rules
Officers commanding Units, Platoons and Sections will please check their roles at the earliest possible date, at H.Q. in order to avoid any possible errors in compiling Pay Lists.

Musketry
The Engineer and Reserve Companies will fire Part 2 Table "T" Rifle at Stonecutters Island on Sunday, December 15. Range Officer: Captain A. M. Thornhill. Dress: Musketry order, mufti or uniform. Launch will leave Murray Pier at 9 a.m. and call at Kowloon Police Pier at 9.10 a.m.

Casuals Musketry
All O.C. units will warn all those who have not fired Part 2 Table "T" Rifle to join the Musketry party, above mentioned, in order No. 2 on Sunday, December 15. O.C. units will report by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, whether they have any casuals to fire on Sunday, December 22, and if so how many.

Corps Band
There will be a full Band Practice at H.Q. at 5.30 p.m. sharp in mufti on Tuesday, December 17.

The questions in the main were international relations in the sense of prevention of war and economic problems, and all questions of nations' cultures, art and the like. They wished to stop war, not because it was inconvenient or that it meant loss of life and money, but because it was really fundamentally wrong that humanity should not realise itself as being potentially something in the nature of a brother.

Barriers of Race
The more they went to each other with goodwill the more they made it possible for friendship and understanding to overcome barriers of race and nationality. The overcoming of that was itself worth while, not merely worth while but perhaps the thing that was most supremely worth while. He thought that persons of education, persons who really had knowledge of how economic and political things were managed, should take the lead in efforts to bring about a greater and more real comprehension between nations.

All members of the Band are asked to make a special effort to be present.

The Battery
December 13 to 15 Practice Camp at Tai Lam as previously notified. Transport will leave Kowloon Ferry on Friday, December 13 at 5.45 p.m. Dress: Tunic, shorts, great coats, helmet, puttees (tapes at the bottom) and bandolier.

Engineer Company
Thursday, December 19, parade at Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. for Miniature or Kennedy Road Range, dress, mufti.

All members who have not completed their musketry Table "T" will proceed to the Stonecutters Range on Sunday, December 15. Dress: Musketry order, uniform or mufti optional.

Corps Signals
Parade at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 19 for Signal Training. Dress: Mufti.

Armoured Car Company
Car Section. Parade at Headquarters on Friday, December 18 at 5.30 p.m. for Machine Gun instruction.

Motor Cycle Section. Parade at Headquarters on Friday, December 18 at 5.30 p.m. for Instructional Ride.

Machine Gun Company
Parade in mufti at 5.30 p.m. at Headquarters on Tuesday, December 17, for M.G. Training.

Scottish Company
Parades, Thursday, December 19. Nos. 5 and 7 Platoons will parade at Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. under Lieut. H. R. Forsyth. Squad drill with arms, belts and frogs will be worn.

No. 6 Platoon at Kowloon Dock under Lieut. G. Duncan, M.R.E.

Portuguese Company
Company Parades. The Company will parade at Headquarters on Friday, December 20 at 5.30 p.m. for Platoon training.

This will be the last parade this year and it is hoped that everyone will do their best to attend.

There are quite a number who have not as yet attended the necessary number of drills this season. Those concerned should make every endeavour to do so in the near future.

The next Company Parade will be held at Headquarters on Friday, January 8, 1930, when everyone is expected to attend.

Recruits. It is most essential that all Recruits should attend all possible parades.

Rifles. All ranks are reminded that all Rifles and Bayonets properly cleaned, should be returned to Corps Stores by Friday, December 19, 1929.

**Result of Machine Gun Field
Firing Competition**

Pts.
No. 6 Platoon, Sgt. Cuthill .43½
A.C. Section, C.S.M. Wilson .33
No. 2 Platoon, Sgt. Urquhart 26½
M.G. Section, Lieut. Rogers .23½
No. 1 Platoon, Lieut. Penn .21
No. 2 Platoon, Cpl. Edgar .13
M.G. Troop, Lieut. Potts .07

The Commandant congratulates all ranks of No. 6 Platoon on again winning the competition; their fine performance demonstrated a great advance in training.

Transfer
No. 994 Cpl. H. V. Parker is transferred from No. 1 Platoon to Reserve Company as from date.

Reversion
No. 994 Cpl. H. V. Parker, No. 1 Platoon, reverts to the ranks at his own request.

Resignation
The following is permitted to resign from the Corps: No. 894 L/Bdr. A. R. J. White, The Battery, as from December 12.

Leave
No. 944 Sigm. A. E. Cones, Corps Signals, from December 1 to 31; Lieut. H. Owen-Hughes, No. 4 Platoon, from November 15 to December 31; No. 1343 Pte. V. W. L. Stanion, No. 1 Platoon, from November 20, 1929 to November 19, 1930.

Promotion
No. 1420 L/Cpl. G. E. R. Divett, No. 1 Platoon, to be Corporal from date.
(Sgd.) B. A. Wolfe-Murray,
Major Adjutant, H.K.V.D. Corps.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Again you are confronted with Gift Problems. Every Stamp Collector has a Special Corner in his heart for Gifts in the Stamp Line—Gifts that last (and incidentally increase in value) and nothing else is more appropriate or appreciative, whether the amount is a Small One or a Large One, something in the Stamp Line will be found quite suitable. We have a large variety of Stamps in the Packet and Collection Line, ranging from \$1 to \$500 per collection and packet.

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SAN FRANCISCO via Shanghai, Japan Ports & Honolulu.	Wednesday, 5th January.
TAIYO MARU	Thursday, 23rd January.
TENYO MARU	Monday, 16th December.
SEATTLE, VICTORIA via Shanghai & Japan Ports.	Tuesday, 14th January.
YOKOHAMA MARU	Monday, 16th December.
MISHIMA MARU	Tuesday, 14th January.
LONDON, MARSEILLES, ANTWERP, ROTTERDAM via Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Suez.	Saturday, 14th December.
HAKONE MARU	Saturday, 28th December.
SUWA MARU	Saturday, 28th December.
SYDNEY & MELBOURNE via Manila & Ports.	Wednesday, 25th December.
TANGO MARU	Wednesday, 22nd January.
AKI MARU	Wednesday, 22nd January.
BOMBAY via Singapore, Penang, & Colombo.	Monday, 14th December.
TASMANIA MARU	Friday, 27th December.
TOTTORI MARU	Friday, 27th December.
SOUTH AMERICA (West Coast) via Japan, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Mexico & Panama.	Sunday, 22nd December.
ANYO MARU	Sunday, 22nd December.
SOUTH AMERICA (East Coast) via Singapore, Cape Town & Ports.	Thursday, 2nd January.
KAMAKURA MARU	Thursday, 2nd January.
NEW YORK, BOSTON via Panama.	Saturday, 14th December.
TAKAKA MARU	Saturday, 14th December.
LIVERPOOL via Port Said, Constantinople, Genoa.	Saturday, 14th December.
DAKAR MARU	Saturday, 14th December.
CALCUTTA via Singapore, Penang & Rangoon.	Sunday, 15th December.
MURORAN MARU	Sunday, 15th December.
AKITA MARU	Sunday, 29th December.
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA.	Monday, 16th December.
BINGO MARU (Mojil direct)	Monday, 16th December.
AKI MARU (Nagasaki direct)	Friday, 20th December.
AKI MARU	Friday, 20th December.

Reduced last Class Excursion Rates quoted between Manila and Australia. For further information apply to—NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA. Tel. Central No. 292, 3897 and 3821. (Private exchange to all departments.)

O. S. K.

SAILINGS FROM HONG KONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

LONDON, HAMBURG, ROTTERDAM & ANTWERP—Via Singapore, Colombo, Suez and Port Said.	Friday, 13th December.
ANDES MARU	Friday, 13th December.
RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTOS & BUENOS AIRES—Via Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Durban & Cape Town.	Tuesday, 24th December.
MANILA MARU	Tuesday, 24th December.
BOMBAY—Via Singapore & Colombo.	Friday, 20th December.
SUMATRA MARU	Friday, 20th December.
MEIGEN MARU	Friday, 3rd January.
(Calls at Penang & Karachi.)	
DURBAN, LOURENÇO MARQUES, BEIRA, DAR-ES-SALAAM, ZANZIBAR & MOZAMBIQUE—Via Singapore & Colombo.	Thursday, 2nd January.
MEXICO MARU	Thursday, 2nd January.
CALCUTTA—Via Singapore, Penang & Rangoon.	Thursday, 19th December.
CELEBES MARU	Thursday, 19th December.
TACOMA MARU	Thursday, 2nd January.
(Calls at Belawan Deli.)	
VICTORIA, SEATTLE, TACOMA & VANCOUVER—Via Japan Ports from Shanghai.	Sunday, 22nd December.
PARIS MARU	Sunday, 22nd December.
ALABAMA MARU (From Shanghai) Friday, 27th December.	
MELBOURNE—Via Manila, Brisbane & Sydney.	Friday, 13th December.
SYDNEY MARU	Friday, 13th December.
HAIPHONG—Via Hoihow & Pakhal.	Wednesday, 8th January.
NEW YORK—Via Japan ports, San Francisco & Panama.	Wednesday, 8th January.
HAVANA MARU	Wednesday, 8th January.
JAPAN PORTS	Friday, 13th December.
ATLAS MARU	Tuesday, 24th December.
SEATTLE MARU	Sunday, 29th December.
HONOLULU MARU	Sunday, 29th December.
KEELUNG—Via Swatow & Amoy.	Sunday, 15th Dec. Noon.
HOAN MARU	Sunday, 22nd Dec. Noon.
CANTON MARU	Sunday, 22nd Dec. Noon.
TAKAO—Via Swatow & Amoy.	Thursday, 19th Dec. 10 a.m.
DELI MARU	Thursday, 19th Dec. 10 a.m.
TAKAO & KEELUNG	Thursday, 19th Dec. 10 a.m.

For further particulars please apply to—OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA. Tel. Central No. 4088, 4089, 4090. M. TAKEUCHI, Manager.

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SHIPPING SECTION

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ACCIDENTS AND PREVENTIVE METHODS

IMPROVED CONSTRUCTION

The adoption of methods of construction which will eliminate or at least lessen casualties due to falls of persons on shipboard, which are a source of heavy damage claims, was advocated by Mr. H. Weaver Mowery, past president of the American Society of Safety Engineers, in a paper entitled "The Fall of Man," read at the luncheon meeting of the Propeller Club, State New York, last night. He deprecated the effective use of slogans or admonitions to be careful.

Referring to a statement to the effect that compared with usual industrial operations stevedoring work seems unnecessarily crude and is attended with a disgracefully high accident rate, Mr. Mowery said: "With the advent of new designs and the application of new materials to larger vessels, with varied and more strenuous operating conditions in terminals and on ships, many hazards in the past have been eliminated and public buildings have become apparent. An effort to develop accurate data in this field is under way, and though it is still far from complete, the findings already are quite startling.

"The accident prevention department of the Pacific-American Steamship Association and the Ship Owners' Association of the Pacific Coast has made a good start. It reports that of a total of 2,007 accidents to seamen on shipboard reported during 1927 and nine months of 1928, 699, or 29.8 per cent. were caused by falls. There were 12 fatalities from this cause in 21 months, which is approximately 70 per cent. of all their fatalities reported during that time.

"It can readily be seen why these figures are so startling when less than 20 per cent. of the total fatalities reported for the year 1927 to the United States Census Bureau, as compared with 70 per cent. in the marine field, were the result of falls. "Is it worth while for the steamship companies and members of the Propeller Club to consider ways and means of reducing these figures? Certainly, in the railway field the cost of accident claims and expenses incident thereto run from 3 to 15 per cent. of their gross receipts. Does anyone know what it is in the marine field?

"A single accident on one of the ships in the port of New York, which came to my attention recently, was caused by one of the crew shipping on the cast iron step of the ship's ladder and falling to the bottom. This has caused the company to pay nearly \$2,000, with prospects of a large cash settlement in addition, and the main will be a charge for others to maintain the rest of his life.

"Every cent, paid out for casualties, compensation, hospital and medical expenses or insurance makes your cost of operation just that more expensive. Do not cherish the thought that because you pay P.I. insurance you are relieved of this burden. Your premiums pay not only those losses, but in addition the overhead of the insurance companies. Your premiums simply reflect your accident record as determined by experience rating. It has been proved in the industrial field that casualty costs can be reduced from 70 to 80 per cent. by accident prevention activities.

"In the steel plants in the olden days a man a day was expected to be killed, and now in plants such as that at Gary 11,000 men have worked 40 days with not a single lost time accident, and at Joliet 3,000 men have worked 246 days without a single lost time accident. The United States Steel Corporation is earning over \$2,000,000 annually as a result of its accident prevention activities.

"There is no question that falls are causing the greatest losses in the marine field, but there is no date to show the causes of these falls. If the experience elsewhere follows here, then somewhat over half of them are on account of slipping, tripping and other hazards classified as unsafe

walkways and the balance scattered under a number of miscellaneous sub-divisions. It is, therefore, the question of making walking safe that is of paramount interest in preventing your accident prevention work.

No Warning
"One reason why unsafe walkways are so prevalent is because they are insidious things. They give no warning as does a whirling belt or a noisy gear.

"The way to cut down on your falls is first to determine their causes. You have not done that yet. Then when you know, be sure your architects and builders take suitable precautions in your new work; and make inspection at least four times yearly of existing equipment, afloat and ashore, to note and have remedied any unsafe conditions that may cause accidents. Do not wait until a serious casualty shows you a hazard.

"In ships there are stair ladder trends, floors in galleys, boiler and engine-rooms, steps and runways around engines, pumps, etc., deck areas at top and bottom of ladders or stairs, and on both sides of door stills, that are especially worthy of consideration because such items ordinary constitute vicious hazards. "Cast iron, steel or brass should not be used at such locations for a walkway surface unless the frictional resistance of such materials is raised by incorporating an abrasive or anti-slip element at the time of casting or rolling. Stop trends whether on stairs or ladders should be free from any corrugations parallel to the nosing edge. The brass or steel nosing edge with which so many stairs are finished are a decided hazard and should be banned.

"The details of safe construction are so numerous, depending on conditions of use and operation, that they should not be dismissed with general statements such as are possible here, but should be individualized, considered and suggestions obtained from those who specialize in that field."

COASTAL SHIPPING

Latest Changes In Personnel

Captain J. Pringle, from Home leave, has gone master, "Ichang."

Captain J. H. Hodgkiss, of the "Ichang," has gone master, "Wantung."

Captain J. L. Gamble, of the "Wantung," is on reserve.

Captain R. F. Mitchell, of the "Fatsan," is on reserve.

Captain C. P. Miller, of the "Kweiyang," has gone master, "Fatsan."

Captain R. Robertson, from reserve, has gone master, "Talyuan."

Captain R. Beck, of the "Wenchow," has gone master, "Poyang."

Captain R. Umpleby, from Home leave, has gone master, "Wenchow."

Captain J. W. Tinson, of the "Poyang," has gone master, "Sinking."

Mr. R. Beasmouth has been appointed second officer, "Ichang."

Mr. S. de Candia, second officer, "Ichang," is on reserve.

Mr. P. Bolan, chief officer, "Che-nan," is on Home leave.

Mr. G. Wright, from reserve, has gone second officer, "Che-nan."

Mr. F. Appleton, from reserve, has gone second engineer officer, "Szechuen."

Mr. R. F. Young, second engineer officer, "Szechuen," is on reserve.

Mr. A. Baggett, second engineer officer, "Chusan," is on reserve.

Mr. J. B. Keay, third engineer officer, "Hupei," has gone second engineer officer, "Chusan."

Mr. D. H. Davidson, from reserve, has gone third engineer officer, "Hupei."

Mr. W. W. Brown, from Home leave, has gone chief engineer officer, "Teau."

Mr. H. C. McKenna, from reserve, has gone second engineer officer, "Yunnan."

Mr. J. B. Keay, second engineer officer, "Yunnan," has gone second engineer officer, "Poyang."

Mr. E. V. de Malmarche, second officer, "Walshing," is on reserve.

Mr. L. W. Harrison, third officer, "Walshing," has gone second officer, "Walshing."

Mr. W. le Brun has been appointed third officer, "Mauwang."

Mr. L. G. Merry, from reserve, has gone extra-second officer, "Loongwo."

Mr. Anderson, chief engineer officer, "Suwo," is on reserve.

Mr. J. M. McLeod, second engineer officer, "Suwo," has gone acting chief engineer officer, same ship.

Mr. E. J. Grainger, third engineer officer, "Kungwo," has gone third engineer officer, "Suwo."

Mr. G. A. Kidgwood has been appointed third engineer officer, "Kungwo."

Captain G. Wilson, of the "Hakwang," has gone master, "Hakwang."

WARSHIPS IN PORT

British warships in port this morning were:—

In basin of R.N. Dockyard: "Tamar," "Petersfield," "Magnolia," "Marazion," "Cornflower."

At north arm: "Kestrel" (flagship), "In Dock," "Scorpio," "Scorpio."

Whampoa Dock: "Cornwall," "No. 4 Buoy," "Herald," "No. 5 Buoy," "Hermes," "No. 7 Buoy," "Trogus," "No. 18 Buoy," "Sednew."

The only foreign man-of-war in port was the Italian cruiser "Libia."

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS

The C.P.S. K.M.S. "Empress of Asia" (from Manila) is due here at 8 a.m. on December 16 (Monday), and will berth at Pier No. 5, Kowloon Wharf.

The C.P.S. R.M.S. "Empress of Asia" Capt. A. J. Halley, R.N.R., will leave here for Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe and Yokohama at noon on December 18 (Wednesday).

PIRATED STEAMER TO GO INTO DOCK

"HAICHING" TO BE BACK ON HER RUN IN A MONTH

SUPERSTRUCTURAL WORK

Mr. A. H. White, of the Douglas Steamship Company, who are the owners of the ill-fated "Haiching," announced yesterday that as soon as the police finish with the steamer, she will go into dock for repairs.

Bodies Identified
It is expected that the "Haiching" will be back on her run within a month, as her engines are undamaged, and the repairs to be done only affect the superstructural work.

It was learned last night at Police Headquarters, that the following dead bodies, recovered from the s.s. "Haiching" after the piracy, have been identified:
Ching Chu-sa, 34, married woman, Ching Chung-sha, 14, a girl; Sum Chuen-shing, 34, manager of the South China Commercial Society, Canton; Yeung Kai-sang, 35, male; Tsai Keli-ko, 30, a male passenger.

There are now sixteen passengers in hospital, three of whom are in a very serious condition and are not expected to recover. One is a boy, 14 years of age. Three are also four members of the crew still in hospital.

Police investigations are continuing, and twelve persons have now been detained, leaving a number still to be interrogated.

OPIUM SMUGGLING

Prevention A "Farcical" Thing

There are many farcical things in China, but none more so than the anti-opium-smuggling and anti-salt-smuggling policy of the authorities, and the vigorous campaign against the former which has been carried on for a long time in certain Chinese papers (in Wu-Han particularly) appears to be as ineffective, and as unlikely to produce results, as anything could be. The transportation and sale of opium in China, and the transportation and sale of salt, except through the Maritime Customs, are forbidden, yet huge quantities of both commodities are smuggled every year, in numerous instances, it is to be feared, with the very knowledge and connivance of the people whose duty it is to suppress such traffic. In Hankow, for instance, although hundreds of persons have been arrested and fined for smoking opium, there is no real determination to suppress the evil, which, unofficially but none the less certainly, brings much profit to the mill of officials; and it has pertinently been asked how the authorities who instituted and benefit from the special tax, which is nothing more nor less than a tax on opium, can be expected to put a stop to the sale of the drug. It has been pointed out on good authority that in Hankow alone there are 37 known dealers in opium, of whom a large number enjoy official protection because of the payments they make from time to time. The "Wahlan Pao," a paper published in the district, gives a list of the names of these dealers, and also of ten dealers who trade in opium secretly. It also gives a list of the various police districts into which the city is divided and the number of dens in each. The evil has never been so rampant to-day as it is in this great business centre. And the Wu-Han district is not alone in this respect. In practically every city of China the opium evil continues un-suppressed, although everywhere the authorities make a show of suppression and the Anti-Opium Bureau gives plenty of public expression to its asserted activities. With salt the situation is no better, huge quantities of this commodity being smuggled under the very noses of the authorities, in Shanghai particularly. We know of one wharf at Shanghai, which is enclosed and "protected" by watchmen, where contraband salt is received in large quantities from the south, unloaded, stored in godowns, and re-shipped up the Yangtze—and all without

the slightest check. The fact that the average Chinese seaman is by no means disinclined to add to his income if he can do a bit of smuggling in reasonable safety, and the further fact that the smugglers have organizations perfected in every port of importance, the difficulty of preventing smuggling is apparent to those who

know their China Coast. Whether it will ever be eliminated or even appreciably reduced is a moot question, but certain it is that happy consummation will never come to pass so long as official and semi-official circles condone and connive at the evil. Occasionally, the master of a ship, or a chief engineer in cases where contraband has been found in that best of all places of concealment, the engine room and vicinity, is made the "goat" and even more occasionally a Chinese official is brought to book, as much for "face" sake as for anything else; but unless and until offenders are treated—to use the expression of the late Lord Fisher—"truthfully, relentlessly and remorselessly," regardless of their station or official status, opium smuggling and opium smuggling, and the smuggling of contraband salt, will go on practically unchecked, despite the operations of this bureau and that bureau, and high-sounding public manifestations.

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DECEMBER.

MON. 16th FRI. 27th

SUN. 22nd

S.S. "TAI MING"

[649 tons—Capt. G. J. Spink.]

DECEMBER.

FRI. 13th TUES. 24th

WED. 18th SUN. 29th

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customs formalities or the payment of customs charges! As in the case of opium, instances do occur where smuggling comes to light, but such instances are but a small fraction of the whole, and with salt, as with opium, the amount seized as contraband is but an infinitesimal proportion of the whole that gets through. In cases where discovery is made, there is the usual demand for a victim. In most instances, it is the shipping company or the officers of the ship, or both; but a victim must be found, and generally is found. When one considers the various ways and means of getting contraband aboard and ashore at the different ports, the fact that the average Chinese seaman is by no means disinclined to add to his income if he can do a bit of smuggling in reasonable safety, and the further fact that the smugglers have organizations perfected in every port of importance, the difficulty of preventing smuggling is apparent to those who

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*BELTANA	—	18th Dec.	Marseilles, London, Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam & Antwerp.
*ALPORE	5,273	19th Dec.	Straits, Colombo & Bombay.
*MALWA	10,980	21st Dec.	Marseilles & London.
*KHYBER	9,114	28th Dec.	Marseilles, London, Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam & Antwerp.
RAJPUTANA	16,568	1930	Bombay, Marseilles & London.
LAHORE	5,304	11th Jan.	Marseilles, London, Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam & Antwerp.

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*TAKIWA	7,936	14th Dec. 10 a.m.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TILAWA	10,006	1930	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TALAMBA	8,018	21st Jan.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TAKADA	6,949	14th Jan.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TALMA	10,000	28th Jan.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TAKIWA	7,936	10th Feb.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
SHIRALA	7,841	22nd Feb.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TILAWA	10,006	3rd Mar.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.

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SAILINGS TO SHANGHAI & JAPAN.

*JEYPORE	5,318	13th Dec.	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
KHIVA	9,135	21st Dec.	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
*MIRZAPORE	6,715	21st Dec.	Moji & Kobe.
TAKADA	6,949	24th Dec.	Amoy, S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
MANTUA	10,946	3rd Jan.	S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Y'hama.
NELLORE	6,853	7th Jan.	Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Y'hama.
TALMA	10,000	7th Jan.	Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
KARMALA	9,128	17th Jan.	S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Y'hama.

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CANTON WAR

(Continued from Page 1.)

SECURE BATTLE

On the night of December 10, the most severe battle so far was fought between the Ironsides and the National troops at Lung Lung Hu resulting in the former being completely beaten, with one entire brigade under General Ng Kie-fel being destroyed. From this engagement, over 4,000 rifles and war materials, and 3,000 prisoners fell into the hands of the Government. The Ironsides remnants have retreated to Chung Fa, where they are now being surrounded, and their extermination is expected very shortly.

HEAVY LOSSES

The Kwangsi troops made repeated and determined attacks, but were repulsed with heavy losses. On Wednesday, their casualties were further increased through explosion of land mines; it is reckoned that their losses cannot be less than 7,000 men.

Yesterday, at 10 a.m., the whole line of enemy at Kung Tien began to retreat, while the Cantonese are following them closely, determined not to give the enemy a respite after the last two days' bloody fighting.

RIVER CHOKED

The Cantonese and National gunboats also co-operated effectively while the battle was raging. The marines landed at Pun Tu, where they used the machine guns on the enemy trying to cross the river. Hundreds perished in the river, which was choked with corpses at the time.

NATIONAL PLANES

Our representative was informed to-day by General Chang Wal-chang, the Chief of the National Aviation Department, that none of the Cantonese and National planes met with any damage at the hands of the enemy or accident of any kind, with the exception of one plane, which made a forced landing two weeks ago at the aerodrome in Samshui with very slight damage.

In the opinion of the General, the planes have proved once more their service being indispensable in time of war.

MORAL EFFECT

The moral effect upon the insurgents has been very striking, as every time a plane appears overhead, the troops scatter like rabbits for any shelter they can find. Besides, the planes have been able to report every movement of the enemy, so that he has been forced to travel at night.

After this war, General Chang believes that a great impetus will be given to the advancement of aircraft in China.

It is definitely learned that the insurgents have no planes as reported by Hong Kong papers. The Government planes scouted Wuchow and all other points for any sign of them, but failed to find any. It is believed that the four planes said to have been bought by Wong Shao-hung have not yet arrived in China. Canton News Agency.

GIFT OF \$500

For Sailors' & Soldiers' Home

Mr. Kwok Siu-lau, whose name is a household word, ranking in the forefront of Chinese philanthropists, has given further evidence of his keen interest in and sympathy with any work which is being done for the general welfare of all classes of people in the Colony, by the magnificent gift of \$500 to the New Sailors' and Soldiers' Home, Wanchai, for providing wireless equipment in the institution for the benefit of British sailors and soldiers. It is with very grateful appreciation this gift is acknowledged and it comes as a mark of Mr. Kwok's sincere and friendly relationship with all our Service friends.

One of the many Hong Kong residents who came back to the Colony from the Old Country yesterday on the "Antenor" was Mr. R. W. Lee-Jones, of Messrs. Wheen & Sons, Ltd.

Insurance companies have refused to accept a risk of \$150,000 on the Graf Zeppelin for a voyage of research in the Arctic.

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Tsai via S'hai & S'hai	FOOSHING	Sun., 22nd Dec. at 7 a.m.
Tsai via S'hai & S'hai	WAISHING	Wed., 25th Dec. at 7 a.m.
Osaka via Moji & Kobe	SUISANG	Wed., 18th Dec. at 7 a.m.
Osaka via Amoy, Moji & KUMSANG	—	1st Jan. at 7 a.m.
Osaka via Amoy, Moji & HOSANG	—	19th Jan. at 7 a.m.
Spore, Penang & Calcutta	NAMSANG	Wed., 18th Dec. at 3 p.m.
Spore, Penang & Calcutta	KUTSANG	Sat., 28th Dec. at 3 p.m.
Spore, Penang & Calcutta	YUENSANG	Mon., 6th Jan. at 3 p.m.
Sandakan	MAUSANG	Fri., 27th Dec. at 3 p.m.
Sandakan	HINSANG	Sat., 4th Jan. at Noon
Tientsin via Foochow and	CHIPSING	Tues., 17th Dec. at 7 a.m.
Wel-Hai-Wel	—	—
Tientsin via Foochow and	CHEONGSHING	Sun., 22nd Dec. at 7 a.m.
Wel-Hai-Wel	—	—

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PASSENGER LISTS

ARRIVALS

Per R.M.S. "Empress of Asia" from Canada, Japan and China, December 12:—
Mrs. C. C. Winslow, Miss Winslow, Mrs. J. C. Dysart, Mrs. E. E. Thomas, Mrs. F. C. Buxton, Miss H. G. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. W. Perrier and family, F. Bumann, C. E. Manifold, W. M. Langham, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Shide, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Dixon, Mrs. Ed. Stone, F. A. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Kerr, Prof. and Mrs. C. G. Seligman, Mrs. C. Wellman, Rev. Canon Streeter, B. C. Guy, B. Ansen, E. H. Randall, E. J. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Newmeyer, S. A. Lopez, A. J. Edgar, Mrs. C. E. Weiss, H. B. Gladhall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Fletcher, Mrs. V. Steensby, E. T. Holmberg, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. MacMath, J. Malakey, H. C. Pond, J. Pond, Mr. and Mrs. T. Gilstrap, Ed. Stone, Miss E. M. Crawford, Col. and Mrs. F. S. Exham, N. F. Ivenoff, J. A. Plummer, Mrs. J. Shee, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hall, Mrs. A. H. Roberts, S. Y. Euren, Mrs. A. C. Miskin, C. B. Weiss, J. N. Grant, H. N. Hirsch, Mrs. M. C. Gailick, Y. N. King, T. Slaw, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Hayes, A. G. C. Grantham, John Delaitre, E. Slant, S. Schlusel, O. C. Raphael, Mrs. C. D. A. Gutierrez, Lt. Gen. Sas. Prince Alongnot, Lt. Comdr. L. R. Riddings, Comdr. L. Sarasilghay-anuker, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Young, Dr. O. P. Peltzer, R. C. Johnson, Mrs. P. C. Rubio, son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Page, Mrs. M. L. G. Hull, P. Burgess, Mrs. Y. I. Fink, Miss E. Fink, Mrs. A. E. Anderson, Miss A. J. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cantwell and family, Miss F. H. Murray, Mrs. T. W. Henry, E. S. Kilbourne, O. W. French, J. L. Grant, Miss B. Christiansen, Miss A. E. Jacobs, A. Black, P. C. Brown.

Per s.s. "Antenor" from United Kingdom via ports, December 12:—
Capt. H. F. Bloxham, Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Baird, F. C. Cleme, Mrs. N. V. A. Croucher and son, Mrs. P. E. Davis, Mrs. E. B. Dreher, P. E. Ellams, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. L. Grist, F. Goodwin, F. Gorton, E. A. Griffiths, Mrs. O. Gladhill, S. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Hickey, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. King, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Lambert, R. W. Lee-Jones, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. B. Martin, Dr. J. T. McEldowney, Mrs. A. Moodie, C. J. Mayo, N. J. Perrin, T. Ramsay, Mrs. W. T. Southern, W. H. le Sueur, V. M. Studd, Mrs. D. Stoner, M. H. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Tomes, Capt. and Mrs. E. Walker, Mrs. J. G. P. Wilson, C. F. Young.

DEPARTURES.

Per "Empress of Asia" for Manila, December 12:—
Mr. A. Baranger, C. B. Bonamy, U. S. Bailey, N. Cortes, Mr. and Mrs. H. Castro and family, H. Domiens, J. F. Dimayaga, Miss H. Dick, L. Dabos, Mr. and Mrs. F. Errea, F. J. Farr, Mr. and Mrs. H. Haack, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hickey, Capt. J. H. Houston, H. Hasson, Dr. and Mrs. R. Kalaras, Miss L. Lopez, Miss C. Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lizarraga, A. Lopez, Miss M. Morro, Miss E. A. V. Mitas.

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CHANGTE	—	—
TAIPING	—	—

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Pres. McKinley . Tues. Jan. 28	Pres. Jefferson . Tues. Feb. 4

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Pres. Garfield . Sun. Dec. 29, 8 a.m.	Pres. Harrison . Sun. Feb. 9, 8 a.m.
Pres. Polk . Sun. Jan. 12, 8 a.m.	Pres. Johnson . Sun. Feb. 23, 8 a.m.

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Pres. Madison . Dec. 21 6 p.m.	Pres. Taft . Jan. 14 6 p.m.
Pres. Pierce . Dec. 31 6 p.m.	Pres. McKinley . Jan. 18 6 p.m.

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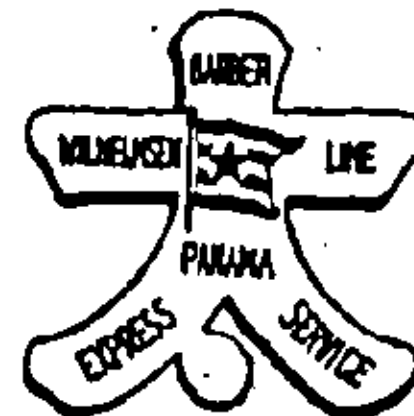
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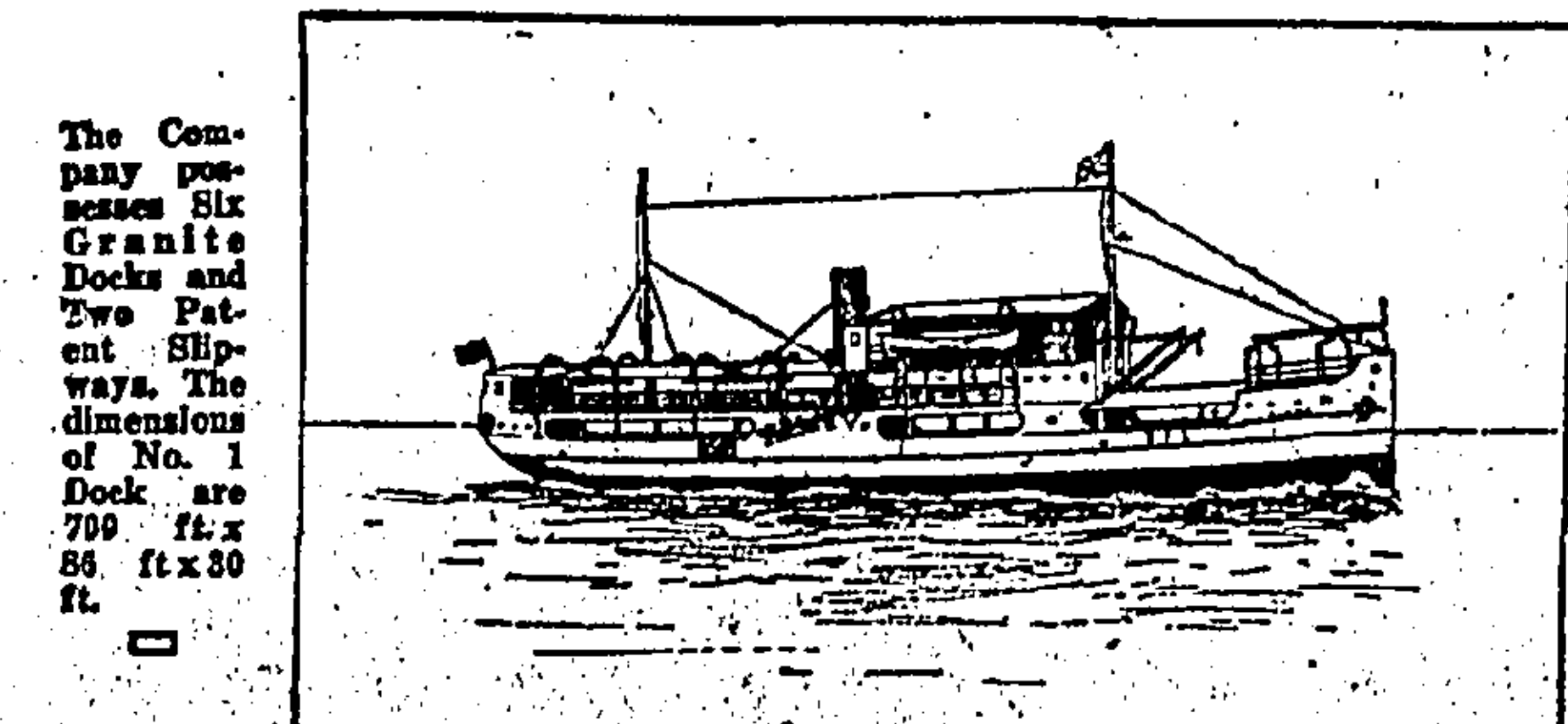
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And drinking deeply, sobers us again.

(Alexander Pope, Essay on Criticism).

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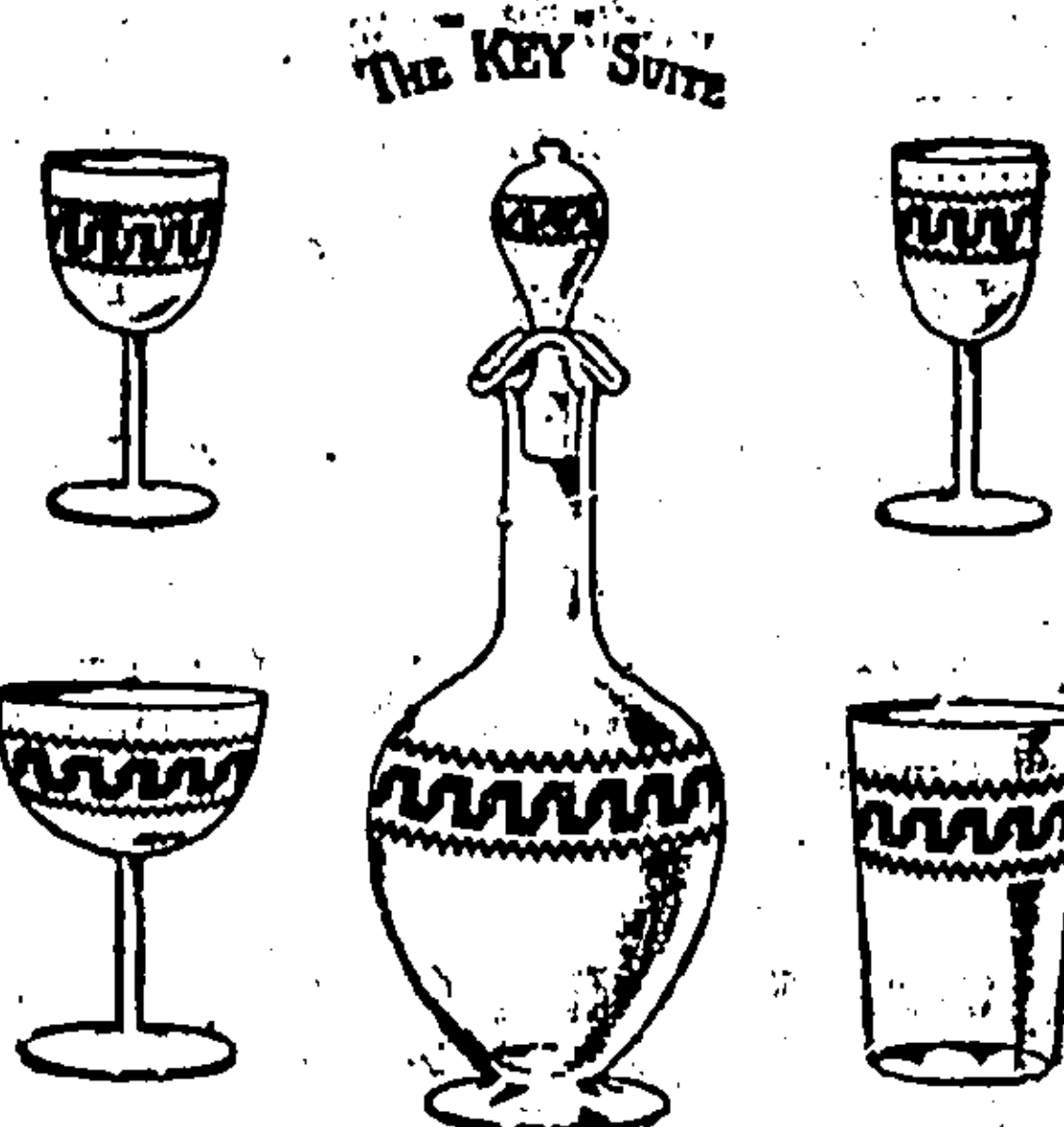
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MARRIAGE

PERRIN-DAVIS.—On December 7, 1929, at Singapore, Norman J. Perrin to Phyllis Mary Davis.

Hong Kong, Friday, Dec. 13, 1929.

THE MENACE OF THE BLACK SEA

All eyes are turned to China now, and so great is our interest in the turmoil and the strife in this quarter of the globe, that we may be apt to overlook the trend of affairs in the West. The news received in to-day's cables, however, that Karakhan has arrived in a Soviet torpedo-boat at Angora as a guest of the Turkish Government, has a significance that it would be well not to overlook. On November 27 last it was stated from Constantinople that "After long and laborious negotiations, a provisional Turkish and Russian agreement has been reached, regulating mutual trading for a period of six months. Turkish exports to Russia will be resumed in December, and the slight Russian and Turkish coolness lately has now disappeared."

The disquieting element in the news of this reconciliation is that no less a personage than Karakhan should be sent as the Ambassador of peace. Karakhan, who has been described as "this new Rasputin attached to Stalin's person," is a sinister individual who, as the agent of the Political Bureau, was responsible to an extensive degree for spreading Bolshevik propaganda in China in 1925, whilst acting in an official capacity as Ambassador. It has been his pleasure to pose as "that idiot" as Stalin has so affectionately called him, but it

only because of his deadly loyalty to the aims of the Third Internationale—"to destroy Imperialism in the world"—he may be considered as an enemy of the British Empire.

Turkey has always favoured friendly relations with Russia, rather than with Great Britain, whom it has never had any reason to love. Again, there are reasons for believing that the Russian and Turkish agreement is not one for the purposes of trade only, and that, underlying its commercial clauses, is the understanding that, in the event of any "unfortunate trouble," the Russia would be able to anticipate the co-operation of Turkey. This, if not actually a fait accompli of the trade agreement, has been the aim of the Soviet ever since she began to expand her army in the Ukraine. It needs very little imagination to perceive what the result of such an alliance would be. In the event of a European war in which Russia was the aggressor, her first act would be to attack the countries of the Little Entente. They, under the promises of that Treaty, would appeal to the signatories, who include Great Britain and France. The Belgian violation would occur over again, and Britain would, in all likelihood, despatch a cruiser squadron to the Black Sea in order to fulfil her obligations under the Entente. The obvious effect of a secret Soviet-Turkish agreement would be, that the British fleet would find its passage to the Black Sea barred at the Bosphorus—a contingency which would deprive the Allied attack of much of its morale.

The above events may never occur; indeed, we sincerely hope that that never will, but with the Soviet's avowed determination to spread the doctrine of Bolshevism in every corner of the Empire, and her secret desire to extend these principles into Poland and the contingent countries, it is well that we keep our eyes open and study each situation likely to lead to so disastrous a conflict. Curiously enough, the Soviet is extremely glad to have, all the publicity it can get on some aspects of its machinations, possessing one of the finest propaganda bureaux in the world, employing agents who understand thoroughly the psychology of the peoples of the countries whose political system they wish to undermine; but they are very chary about disclosing their modus operandi. It is these that the British Foreign Office would be well advised to watch with caution.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three cases of smallpox were notified yesterday.

Mrs. J. Owen Hughes is to distribute the prizes at the Victoria British School at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday next.

Mr. N. J. Perrin, of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, returned yesterday on the "Antenor." He was accompanied by Mrs. Perrin.

With Mrs. Lambert, Mr. C. D. Lambert, of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British section) returned yesterday by the "Antenor."

The dress rehearsal performance of the "Gelsa," to have been given at the City Hall to-night at 8.30, has been postponed until 9.30.

Mr. Les Levante, world famed illusionist, and Mrs. Levante have arrived from Australia and are staying at the Peninsula Hotel.

The Asiatic Petroleum Co. have informed us that they have reduced the price of gasoline by 4 cents per gallon from 65 cents to 61 cents.

Mrs. E. C. Burton, mother of Mr. R. C. Tredwell (Consul-General in Hong Kong for the U.S.A.), arrived yesterday on the "Empress of Asia."

The Police are holding a fancy dress carnival dance at Lane, Crawford's Restaurant on Monday, December 16, from 8.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Captain H. F. Bloxham, Assistant Superintendent, Prisons Department, came back yesterday on the "Antenor" at the expiry of long leave.

Mrs. Southern, wife of the Colonial Secretary (Hon. Mr. W. T. Southern, C.M.G.), returned yesterday on the Blue Funnel steamer "Antenor."

Returning from a holiday, Mr. G. E. Ellams, of the Hong Kong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., arrived back yesterday on the "Antenor."

Being his fourth occasion that he had carried passengers in excess, a Chinese licenced motor driver was fined \$5.

Mrs. N. V. A. Croucher, wife of Mr. Croucher, of Messrs. Benjamin & Potts, was a passenger on the "Antenor" which arrived here from Home yesterday.

For loitering in Nathan Road near the Star Ferry the Chinese driver of a public vehicle was fined \$8 at the Kowloon Court to-day. It was his fourth offence.

Charged with the theft of 70 cabbies of freshly cut vegetables and four rattan baskets from three Chinese gardeners of Old Kowloon Tong, two unemployed Chinese were at the Kowloon Magistracy to-day sentenced to consecutive terms of one month, three months, and two weeks' hard labour each.

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE MALAY STATES

SENSUOUS DANCING GIRLS

IN the town, the night was red hot. What a wind there was moved with the same languid motion as we did, and so counted for exactly nothing. All day we had wandered about in search of a breeze, and now toward evening my friend had promised that if I would go with him to a Malay's house about fifteen miles out of the town, and situated near the sea, we would get the refreshing breeze our heart desired as a change from Singapore's hot, sticky heat.

I got into my friend's car and we crept out into the quiet country lanes. We passed a Chinese shop, outside of which a huge crowd was gathered listening to a plaintive melody played on a flute, and watching the sensuous movements of dancing girls. Along the road tall coconut palms tossed their luminous leaves lazily, for already we were running into a breeze.

The merchant, who was rich, was giving what is known as a Malay Ronggong—that is, an "open-air party"—in the grounds of his house. My friend had promised me a jolly evening, so I was looking forward to it with much interest. We arrived at the gateway of the house: a most marvellous affair of blue, gold and white, tall pillars of stone, surmounted by fantastic golden tigers, and hung with iron gates painted a rich blue and gold. Mounting the steps we passed up the drive where dozens of lanterns and slim red lighted candles in swinging sconces shed a pale, ghostly light on our path; and then, just round the corner as we came out on the wide spacious lawn, a most brilliant spectacle met our eyes. Dotted all over the lawn in small groups were the guests of the evening, chattering and gesticulating.

Mr. A. J. Edgar, principal of Messrs. Ellis & Edgar, stockbrokers, came back yesterday on the "Empress of Asia" after another of his periodical business visits to Shanghai.

Mr. A. L. Shields, of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., returned yesterday by the "Empress of Asia," accompanied by Mrs. Shields. Mr. Shields is prominently identified with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, of which he has been Commodore for some time.

Hong Kong estate worth \$1,300 was left by Nuno Madeira Pinto, who died intestate at No. 201, Rua d'Estefania, Lisbon, on January 21, 1926. Letters of administration have been granted to the Hon. Mr. W. E. L. Shanton, of Deacons, who is the attorney of Major Jayme Madeira Pinto, of Lisbon, deceased's brother.

Chinese—women and men—were dressed in gowns of gaudious colouring and of the finest silks, the women wearing combs and earrings set with precious stones, which glittered and gleamed in the lantern light. Malays wore in the latest cut European suits and dresses, their brown faces showing up oddly against the soft white collars of tank shirts and open-necked frocks.

Our host and hostess came forward with shy smiles and softly spoken words of greeting. The party began. A Chinese band had been engaged for the music. First came the fierce beating of drums, accompanied by the wailing noises of a violin; and as the music rose and fell there drifted on the lawn gaily decorated Malay natives, who began to dance.

The music became wild and aching in its quality, it held something of the dark spirit of the brooding night in its rhythm. Then suddenly it changed; the dancers gathered speed and swung themselves about in a violent manner, they laughed shrilly. There was the angry clamour of bells and pipes, the beat of the drum quickened, and the half-naked brown bodies gleamed as their movements became more furious. Our host explained, "They are calling on the old gods for happiness." The ancient splendour of the scene took hold of our imagination, our host turned and invited us to join in the dance.

For the hour two young Englishmen, cultured Chinese, and rich Malays forgot the modern jazz and gave themselves completely over to those dances of another age. Overhead in the heavens a tropical moon crept up the sky with a brilliance seldom seen in an English night; stars were thickly spread, and meteors rocketed across the sky. The breeze from the sea became cool and pleasant, while far out on the face of the China Sea native fishing boats shot over the silver path of the moon's rays, and wild dogs sat upon the sand barking into the night.

—J.L.S.

TEN YEARS AGO

(From the "China Mail," December 13, 1919.)

To-day's dollar is worth 5/- 14d.

Our Macao correspondent writes that there were five slight earthquakes shocks felt at Macao about 11 a.m.

A "China Mail" reporter interviewed Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse. Then he interviewed the Adversarialist, of the "China Mail" on the same subject. The Adversarialist said, inter alia, "No. Don't know Epiphany. Don't want to." The reporter: "He says you're a dam fool, Sir."

Adversarialist: "Ha! He seems to have gleams of intelligence. What else did he say?"

MEN, WOMEN, AND AFFAIRS

"Talkie" Problems in Japan: Moscow's Monster Incubators: Capitalistic Eggs: Making Sea Cooks: Kobe's Oil Dumps

Japanese "Talkies"

TREPIDATION is felt by the "Japan Chronicle" at a report that there are to be Japanese "talkies." Presumably, says our contemporary, they will be no worse, for the ordinary foreign spectator than the ordinary Japanese film; and if it is not found, worth while to retain the Katsuben (men who explain the captions) for the foreign film alone, it may be a positive advantage. But in some of the American talkies Japanese captions have been slipped in. This leaves them incomprehensible. For all without the Katsuben's aid. But if they do the same thing for silent films, and replace the English with Japanese, where shall we be then? And speaking of English captions, or titlings, whichever is the correct word, there are some in "Power," now being shown at the Shochikuza, which are a perfect language lesson. For instance, "Yeh, we gonna keep off de blimps" apparently means, "We shall avoid women in future." It may be mentioned, that the Katsuben sometimes raises the film to a much higher plane of politeness than was intended by the makers. For instance, in a recent one the beautiful lady says, "Say, you gonna hell outta here," which was rendered for the Japanese audience, "Hayaku o kaei nasai," which may be roughly translated, "quickly depart please."

These Funny "Reels"
ONE of the things most of us find oddly charming in Russian novels is the way a person on being invited

to dinner will reply with a monologue on free-will and the ethics of suicide. Naturally, the Russian Government would be to blame if it did not take into account the characteristics of its people, and in fact, this has been done so well that discussion is being offered in place of dinner. Not long ago the Bolsheviks, finding their people starving, proposed to solve the meat crisis by an intensive breeding of rabbits, but the rabbits proved poor Communists, and the trials went on. Yet there is no need to despair, for the "Moscow Economic Life" announces that a number of monster incubators, capable of handling between 10,000 and 20,000 eggs, will be established near Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev. It is proposed as a cure for the crisis.

Capitalistic Eggs

AND what a charming idea it is! how easily one can imagine Tchekov's people forecasting the great day when no wasteful eggs but only pullets will be eaten with ham. Why starve when an incubated egg will soon make a meal for two? Governing housekeeping, providing food—these are dull occupations. How much more intelligent it is to provide food for thought. Eggs have been eaten since, before the flood, but they are clearly the symbol of the wastefulness of Capitalism. One might as well eat seed potatoes. The Russians will not live up to their reputations unless they can talk on this subject till they forget they are hungry.

Classes for Cooks and Stewards

THE Liverpool School for Stewards and Cooks in the Board of Trade Buildings, Canning Place, under the direction of Mr. R. Bond, M.L.C., M.C.A., is doing an excellent record for the shipward and stewardship of the Merchant Navy in turning out efficient stewards and cooks. During

the past twelve months about 350 students have entered the classes. The apprentice cooks' class of boys from 16 years and upwards has now no fewer than 22 boys in training; the majority of whom are employed immediately their training is completed. The shipping lines fully appreciate the importance of having well-trained youths in their catering department, and the Pacific S.N. Co. will not engage beginners until they have had a course of training at the Canning Place school. Such a scheme, if generally adopted by the shipping companies, would prove of great advantage to the employers in that they would have a continuous supply of well-trained cooks and stewards in their ships.

Nobody Wants Them

MINOR, but interesting, is an unforeseen development at Kobe, caused by the use of oil by steamers. The "Japan Chronicle" reports that the grounds of the Kobe Customs are being filled with empty iron oil drums, left by the vessels which are fitted with Diesel engines, and the question has arisen what shall be done with them. As there is an import duty on iron of ¥20 a hundred-kin, proceeds the Kobe paper, nobody is willing to remove them from the Customs grounds, still less the vessels using the oil, which find it cheaper to abandon them than to sell them. The Customs authorities are confiscating them and storing them in their warehouses, but it is feared that the warehouses will soon be filled to overflowing with the drums, which, moreover, with the lapse of time will be corroded and of little value. The Customs is now seeking the consent of the authorities for disposing of the drums at ¥4 each while they are still in good condition. The duty, it is stated, comes to about ¥8 a drum, so that the Customs has the only people who can dispose of them at a profit. But then such a sale would look very like condoning dumping.

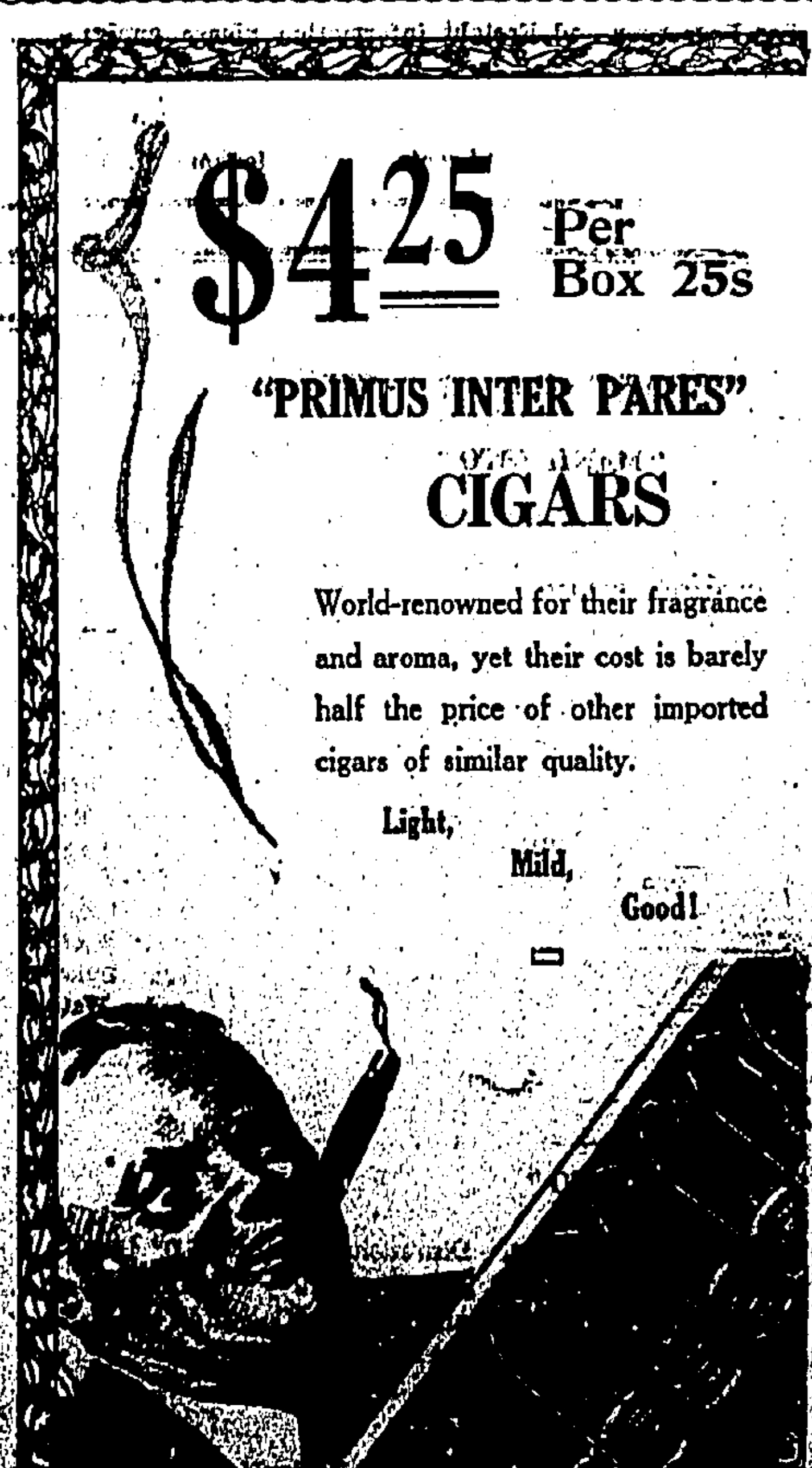
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NAVAL CONFERENCE

Japanese Delegation Leaves After Great Send-off

BARRELS OF SAKE

Aeroplanes And Destroyers Escort Steamer

"TOTS" FOR MINISTERS

Scaplanes frolicked, aeroplanes circled overhead, destroyers rushed hither and thither and a couple of cruisers escorted the "Siberia Maru," on which the Japanese delegation sailed en route to London to the naval arms conference at the British capital. This was the Navy's send-off to the Japanese delegation.

The delegation left Tokyo central station for Yokohama and were seen off by thousands, "banzai" after "banzai," the Japanese equivalent of good luck, rending the air.

ONLY ONE WOMAN

The delegation consists of the following: Mr. Reijiro Wakatsuki, chief delegate; Admiral Takarabe, Navy Minister; Admiral Abo; Mr. Kawasaki, chief of the Bureau of Legislation of the Cabinet; Dr. Yamakawa, member of the House of Peers, and Count Aikake Kabayama. The last four are advisers to the Japanese delegation in various capacities. Vice-Admiral Sakonji and Mr. H. Saito are also attached to the delegation. The former is an expert on Naval affairs, while the latter holds the post of Chief of the Intelligence Bureau of the Foreign Office. There is only one woman with the delegation, this being Mrs. Takarabe, wife of the Navy Minister.

The entire Cabinet was present at the railway station to bid the delegation God-speed, while as the "Siberia Maru" weighed anchor from Yokohama, she was escorted by a cruiser and a destroyer on either side as far as Yokosuka, aeroplanes meanwhile hovering overhead. As Yokosuka was passed the shore batteries there fired a salute.

The Barrels of Sake
Aboard the "Siberia Maru" were also many good things for the delegates to eat and drink. There were ten barrels of the choicest sake (rice wine), for Mr. Wakatsuki, the chief delegate, is known to like his "tot" and like it choice and plentiful. In addition there were various pickles and vegetables, unavailable or difficult to get in the west, these including a large number of what Sir Edwin Arnold called "that dreadful Japanese vegetable," the daikon (or horse-radish) which when pickled until it is all ready to fall apart is regarded by Japanese epicures as food fit for none else but the gods.

During the past few days, Mr. Wakatsuki has been receiving a large number of letters, some enjoining him not to look on the wine when it is red, while yet others urged him to drink his fill if thereby it helped his reasoning faculties and assisted him to present Japan's case in a better light. The "boys"—as stewards are called in the Orient—have been recruited from amongst the ranks of amateur actors, musicians, sleight-of-hand artists and the like and these will help to enliven the weary hours at sea. Aside from the fact that she is carrying the Japanese delegation, this trip of the "Siberia Maru" is noteworthy as being her first one to Seattle since she was re-conditioned as a cabin ship.

Government Eager to Co-operate
On the eve of the delegation's departure, Admiral Takarabe issued the following statement to the press:

"The Imperial Government's attitude and policy towards the problem of reduction and limitation of naval armaments has been announced more than once and has also been made clear through Japan's reply to the British invitation to participate in the London conference. The Government will co-

Before Mr. W. Schofield at the Kowloon Magistracy, yesterday, a Chinese was charged with harbouring and enticing a girl away from her parents. It was stated that because of rumours of ill-fame against one of the foremen the girl's father refused to allow her to continue her work in a factory, but the girl subsequently disappeared from her parents and was later found living with the man. The case was adjourned.

Unable to give a satisfactory explanation of the possession of seven blocks of wood, a Chinese, 60 years of age, was at the Kowloon Magistracy today sentenced to seven days' hard labour. He had a previous conviction.

For gambling at "fan tan" outside Holt's Wharf, Kowloon, a Chinese was at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning fined \$2, with the option of three days' hard labour.

A Chinese, charged with cruelty to chickens, appeared himself from the Kowloon Magistracy today and his bail of \$10 was returned.

CORRESPONDENCE

RENT PROBLEM

(To the Editor of "China Mail")

Sir, — In view of the hue and cry raised by certain selfish sections of the Chinese community against the formation of the Rent Problem Committee, may I crave the medium of your valuable space to make clear the end and aim which prompted some leading Chinese merchants to form that organization, so that the Europeans in this Colony as well as the Hong Kong Government may understand the core of the question at issue.

There are landlords and landlords in various shades and degrees. Admittedly, a few are landlords in the real sense of the word, but many others are sheer speculators who hold properties by the grace of mortgages and loans from friends. Directly they come into possession of a house or group of houses, they care for nothing else but high rents in order to pay interest on the mortgages and in addition, make a profit for themselves. Whenever it is to their advantage to sell the property for the slightest gain, they have no scruple in so doing.

The kind of tenants who suffer the most in the hands of these speculative landlords are tea-houses, boarding-houses, restaurants, cafes and beer-shops. All these require considerable outlay of expense in decorations, furnishings, etc., so as to make their shops as attractive as possible. In such lines of business, an imposing shop-front is obviously an indispensable item; and more often than not the expenditure in this regard runs up from several thousands to ten thousand dollars. As regards restaurants and boarding-houses, the cost for furnishings alone may safely be put down to between several tens of thousands to a hundred thousand dollars. It is a matter of common daily occurrence that no sooner have the shops been done up for business than the tenants receive notice of a rise in rent. Just imagine the predicament of the shop-keepers in the circumstance. Nor is this all. Some crafty speculators make it their business to inquire into the doings of the shop-keepers in the different busy localities. As soon as an opportunity offers itself, they will acquire the properties in these centres. This being done, the landlords will extort higher rents from the tenants, or, as an alternative, induce the tenants to buy the properties from them. If this request is not complied with, the tenants will before long be served with the usual notice to quit.

Now, coming to the question of properties under lease, it is only natural that landlords cannot raise rent within the specified period of the lease, but they can extort "shoe-money" or pourboire or gratuity in devious ways. If this is frowned at, there will be no chance for the tenants to renew the lease when it expires.

The Chinese estate agents equally never have any consideration for the tenants. Neither have they the remotest idea of exorbitant rentals, so long as they are able to obtain a lease from the landlord with the highest bid and sub-let them to others for a profit. In busy centres where premises are occupied by piece goods dealers and Nam Pak Hong merchants, respectively, the rents demanded are far too disproportionate and are more than the traffic can bear. In former years, a shop space in one street would fetch only several thousand dollars, whereas nowadays the price has soared as high as from \$40,000 to \$80,000.

As regards shop space in another street, at one time, the value of property ranged between \$20,000 to \$30,000, whereas the price is now more than trebled. In face of such inflated value, if some of the speculative landlords do not raise rents in these two localities, how can they find sufficient means to meet the interests on mortgages? The pity is that the business of these merchants does not increase to the extent of coping with the continual rise in rent. The upshot of the whole disrupted state of affairs is that, long as these wild speculators on properties are in our midst, there will be no peace in the business circle of Hong Kong, regardless of wholesale or retail trade.

The tense situation urgently calls for an exhaustive enquiry to probe into the roots of the problem, and the formation of the Rent Problem Committee is, therefore, a step in the right direction and constitutes a helpful factor to eradicate a festering evil in Hong Kong at the moment. Of course, those bona fide landlords who invest in properties for legitimate return of 8 to 10 per cent. of their money do not, and will not give trouble to their tenants. Neither will they incur any odium in the eyes of the public. But if property be used as a speculative commodity for the benefit of a few to the hurt of the many, the Committee will leave no stones unturned to seek redress.

Yours, etc.,

FAMINZAS.

Hong Kong, Dec. 12.

"Your record is a very bad one. You have four previous convictions, one for larceny from the person for which you got six months' hard labour last year," said Mr. W. Schofield at the Kowloon Magistracy today to a Chinese who was charged with the larceny of a silver watch and chain from a house in Temple Street. He was sentenced to four months' hard labour, at the expiry of which he is to be under Police surveillance for two years.

A Chinese, unemployed for five months, was at the Kowloon Magistracy today sentenced to two weeks' hard labour for the theft of a piece of copper wire, the property of the Kowloon Dock. It was asserted that accused stole because he was so poor that he could not get money to buy food as he was hungry.

SHADOWS BEFORE

COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCED IN "CHINA MAIL"

Special Functions

To-day—Tea Dances at Hong Kong Hotel and Peninsula Hotel, 4.30 p.m.

To-morrow—Dinner Dance at Repulse Bay Hotel, 8.30 p.m.

To-day—Kowloon British School F.P.A. Dance, 8.45 p.m.

To-morrow—Peninsula Hotel Carnival Dance, 8.30 p.m.

Dec. 16—Police Fancy Dress Carnival Dance at Lane, Crawford's Restaurant, 8.30 p.m.

Jan. 10—Second annual dance of the Hong Kong Ladies' Hockey Club, at Lane, Crawford's Restaurant.

Entertainments

To-day—Queen's Theatre, "White Shadows of the South Seas."

To-day—Star Theatre, "The Sin Sister."

To-day—World Theatre, "The Gate Crasher."

To-day—Majestic Theatre, "Nell Gwynn."

Dec. 14—At Theatre Royal, "The Geisha," 9.15 p.m.

Dec. 16—At Theatre Royal, "The Geisha," 9.15 p.m.

Home Mails

To-morrow—Inward from Europe via Negapatam ("Hongkong").

Outward for Europe via Marseilles ("Hakone Maru"), 9.30 a.m.

Lammerts Auctions

To-morrow—At Sales Room, miscellaneous goods, (more or less damaged), 11 a.m.

Dec. 16—At Sales Room, miscellaneous goods, (more or less damaged), 11 a.m.

Meeting

To-day—Meeting for Students at St. John's Hall, 8.30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

To-day—At St. John's Cathedral Hall, open lecture by Canon Streeter on "God, Pain and Immortality," 5.15 p.m.

To-morrow—Diocesan Girls' School Bazaar and Sale of Work, 3 p.m.

Dec. 16—Pianoforte recital by Mrs. Suiter's pupils at St. Andrew's Hall, Kowloon, 8 p.m.

Dec. 16—Hong Kong Benevolent Society Bridge and Mahjong Drive, Helena May Institute.

Dec. 16—Rice Hall Opening Ceremony, 4 p.m.

Dec. 16—Wah Yan College Tenth Anniversary Dinner, 7.30 p.m.

Dec. 19—Y.M.C.A. Debate 9 p.m. (postponed from Thursday, Dec. 12). Subject: "That this meeting is of the opinion that Western Civilization is not adoptable to the Orient."

Dec. 20—Conference for Ministers of Religion and Educationalists on "Education and Religion," at St. John's Cathedral Hall. Tea: 4-4.40 p.m. Meeting 4.50-6 p.m.

Jan. 4-6—New Territories Agricultural Show, at Shek Wu Hui (near Sheung Shui Railway Station).

To-day's Wireless Programme broadcast by Z.B.W. on the wavelengths of 355 metres and 49 metres. Listeners are requested to kindly report on the reception of the 49 metres transmission, which will be used simultaneously with the 355 metres transmission during all programmes excepting the evening one, when it will not be switched on until 9.30 p.m.

5.00-5.30 p.m.—Programme of H.M.V. and Victor Records supplied by the Courtesy of Messrs. Moutrie, "Chal Roudom, Overture" (Ketsch).

The Band of H.M. Coldstream Guards.

"My Blue Heaven" (Whitling & Donaldson).

"Because I Love You" (Berlin).

"Always" (Irving Berlin).

"Just a Cottage Small" (By a Waterfall) (B. G. De Sylva).

James F. Hanley, Victor Salon Orchestra.

"At Dawning" (Charles Wakefield Cadman).

"The Waiting Doll" (La Foyes (Volante), (Folsh).

Victor Concert Orchestra.

"I kiss your hand, Madama-Tango" (Ralph Erwin-Fritz Rottler).

"Twilight Tango" (Edouard Mac).

Edouard Mac, Weber and His Orchestra.

5.30-6.00 p.m.—Aunt Joan, Uncle Dick & Uncle Jeff will entertain the kiddies.

6.00-7.00 p.m.—Programme of Chinese Records.

7.45 p.m.—Weather Report.

9.00-10.30 p.m.—Programme of H.M.V. and Victor Records supplied by the Courtesy of Messrs. Moutrie, "The Desert Song" Vocal Gems (Bombers).

The Big Muzette Vocal Gems (Lanka). Light Opera Company.

Caprice Viennaise (Kreislere).

"Humoresque" (Dvorak-Kreislere).

"Idylle" (Fritz Kreisler, Viola Solo).

"Evening" (Easthope Martin).

Herbert Dawson.

"Lol Here the Gentle Lark" (St. Henry R. Bishop).

"Solovig's Song" (Chanson Solovig).

Grieg's "Adams" (Chanson Solovig).

"Dolores—Waltz" (Waldteufel).

"Moraine—Spanish Caprice" (M. Espinosa).

"How Beautiful upon the Mountains" (P. Flaxington-Harker).

"The Holy City" (E. Westphaly).

"Carmen—Selection—Part 1, 2, 3 & 4" (Bizet).

Creator and His Band.

"Beautiful Night—Waltz" (Opfermann).

"Spring—Waltz" (Mendelssohn).

International Concert Orchestra.

"Santa Lucia, Luntana" (Santa Lucia).

"I long for you" (E. A. Maffio).

"Voice of the Night" (Grieg).

"Grieg's 'Adams'—Brabant" (Grieg).

"Benjamin's Gigli" (Benjamin).

"La Boheme—Fantasia—Part 1 & 2" (Puccini).

Victor Symphony Orchestra.

"Phantom's (Wayne).

"The Snow White Lullaby" (Wood & Sons).

"Gracie Fields, Comedienne" (Gracie Fields).

10.30 p.m.—Close Down.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET.

GODOWNS TO LET.—Two Godowns at Praya East, Gloucester Road, about 1400 and 8500 ft. each, opposite to Kwong Sang Hong, Ltd. Factory, and one Godown at Whitfield Road, about 4,000 ft. next to Kwong Sang Hong, Ltd. Glass Factory. Please apply to Kwong Sang Hong, Ltd.

ROYAL HONG KONG GOLF CLUB

STARTING LIST for Sunday, 15th December, has disappeared from Hong Kong Club. Please enter names before 10 a.m. 14th December on new list or inform.

E. D. MATTHEWS, Secretary, R.H.K.G.C. Hong Kong, 13th Dec., 1929.

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION!

ATTEND THE NEW TERRITORIES AGRICULTURAL SHOW

JANUARY, 4th & 5th, 1930.

SHEK WU HUI (near Sheung Shui Railway Station).

Watch for the handbook on the bookstalls!

Special Railway facilities—Military Band—English and Chinese Restaurants—Theatrical Performances, etc., etc.

See the development of local-grown produce!

THE BEN LINE STEAMERS, LTD.

From MIDDLESBRO, LONDON, STRAITS AND MANILA.

The Steamship "BENDORAN"

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of The Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., wharves and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 20th inst. will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underinsured on or before the 3rd January, 1930, or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 19th inst. at 10 a.m. by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hong Kong, 13th December, 1929.

WIRELESS WIZARD

Marconi Broadcasts From Britain

Rugby, Yesterday.

Signor Marconi is broadcasting to-day from England for re-transmission through American broadcasting stations, a description of his experience at St. John's Newfoundland in receiving the famous "S" signal from "Foldhu," "Cornwall" on December 12, 1901. This was the first wireless signal to be received across the Atlantic, and it demonstrated that the waves would travel round the protuberance of the earth's surface.

Signor "Marconi's" broadcasts will be transmitted to the United States through a short-wave experimental station at the Marconi works at Chelmsford. He will have with him Messrs. Kemp and Paget, who were with him at St. John's Newfoundland, and are still associated with him—British Wireless Service.

Caprice Viennaise (Kreislere).

"Humoresque" (Dvorak-Kreislere).

"Idylle" (Fritz Kreisler, Viola Solo).

"Evening" (Easthope Martin).

Herbert Dawson.

"Lol Here the Gentle Lark" (St. Henry R. Bishop).

"Solovig's Song" (Chanson Solovig).

Grieg's "Adams" (Chanson Solovig).

"Dolores—Waltz" (Waldteufel).

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"How Beautiful upon the Mountains" (P. Flaxington-Harker).

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"Beautiful Night—Waltz" (Opfermann).

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International Concert Orchestra.

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"La Boheme—Fantasia—Part 1 & 2" (Puccini).

Victor Symphony Orchestra.

"Phantom's (Wayne).

"The Snow White Lullaby" (Wood & Sons).

"Gracie Fields, Comedienne" (Gracie Fields).

10.30 p.m.—Close Down.

THE VERY THING FOR THE KIDDIES. LITTLE TOT RECORDS IN ALBUMS.



4 D SIDED RECORDS IN EACH ALBUM

With 8 Pictures, Cards Illustrating The Subjects of the Eight Selections

CALL AND HEAR THEM AT:

The Anderson Music Co., Ltd.

DAIRY FARM NEWS

JUST RECEIVED

Prize Quality Wiltshire Bacon

(in rashers)

\$1.20 per lb.

NOTHING BETTER

The Dairy Farm Ice & Cold Storage Co., Ltd.

PENINSULA HOTEL

THE ROSE ROOM

AND

ROOF GARDEN

HAVING BEEN RESERVED FOR THE BALL TO BE GIVEN BY THE OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The Management beg to inform their patrons that there will be no Dinner Dances on the 19th December, 1929.

THE HONG KONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS, LTD.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR HAMPERS.

We beg to Notify Customers that Assorted Hampers suitable for the Festive Season may be obtained from us at the following Reduced Rates:—

No. 1. HAMPER—\$42.

1 qt. Moet & Chandon Dry Imperial Champagne	1 qt. Superb Tawny Port
1 pt. Blackberry Brandy	2 qts. St. Julien Claret
1 pt. D.O.M.	1 qt. Old Brown Sherry Black Seal
1 qt. Martell's XXX Brandy	1 qt. Puritan Old Tom or Dry Gin
2 qts. King George IV. Gold Label or Perfection Whisky	1 qt. Burgoyne's Burgundy
	1 phial Pomeranzen Bitters

No. 2 HAMPER—\$38.

1 qt. Gullemit Champagne	2 qts. Tawny Dry Port
1 pt. D.O.M.	2 qts. St. Julien Claret
1 qt. Burgoyne's Burgundy	1 qt. Puritan Old Tom or Dry Gin
1 qt. Martell's XXX Brandy	1 qt. Vio de Pasto Sherry
2 qts. King George IV. Gold Label or Perfection Whisky	1 phial Pomeranzen Bitters

No. 3 HAMPER—\$33.

1 qt. Burgoyne's Burgundy	1 qt. Engstrand's XXX Brandy
1 pt. Peppermint G.F.	1 qt. Amontillado Sherry
1 pt. D.O.M.	1 qt. Puritan Old Tom or Dry Gin
2 qts. Superior Rich Old Port	1 qt. Vio de Pasto Sherry
2	



Nestlé's the milk people make it and they make it very milky! Nestlé's Milk Chocolate is almost creamier than cream. You'll love the smooth flavour and the goodness of it. Choc-full of creamy goodness, every piece!

NESTLÉ'S MILK CHOCOLATE

The nut milk bars are just as good!

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FAMOUS LADIES' FOOTWEAR
COMBINES
COMFORT. QUALITY
STYLE AND ECONOMY

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THE WING ON CO., LTD.
HONG KONG.

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THE SLAZENGER'S TENNIS BALL

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— LCO. ROTUNDA. HONG KONG —

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ADOPTED WIMBLEDON
CHAMPIONSHIP 1930.

WIMBLEDON'S CHOICE FOR
24 YEARS IN SUCCESSION.

STOP COUGHS WHERE
THEY START!

EVANS' PASTILLES go right to the root of the trouble, killing the germs that lurk in the innermost recesses of the nose, throat and chest.

Safeguard your health and that of your children always by having them ready to use at the first sign of a cold.



BANK RATE REDUCED

Not Expected Before End Of The Year

Rugby, Yesterday.
The bank rate was reduced to-day from five and a half to five per cent. Reduction had not been expected before the end of the year and came as a pleasant surprise.

It was on September 26 that, owing to the threat to the British gold holding brought about by speculation in New York, the bank rate was raised to six and a half per cent., which was the highest rate for eight years. Then came the New York slump, which eased the world money position and increased the bank's chances of increasing its gold holding. On October 31 the rate was lowered to six per cent. Three weeks later it was reduced to five and a half per cent.—British Wireless Service.

Discount Rate

London, Yesterday.
The Bank of England discount rate has been reduced to 5 per cent. The rate was reduced from 6 to 5½ per cent. on November 21 last.—Reuter.

THE WORK SHY MAN

Separating Him From The "Honest Tryer"

London, Yesterday.
At the report stage of the Unemployment Insurance Bill the Attorney-General introduced a substitute clause which was adopted by 290 votes to 159 to meet the objections of the original "genuinely seeking work" clause. He said that the real difficulty was to separate the work-shy man from the honest tryer, but suitable employment might be offered to a claimant outside his usual occupation which, if refused, would involve loss of benefit. Mr. J. Maxton supported the clause.—Reuter.

PIRATE PROTECTION

Measures To Be Taken By Norwegians

Oslo, Yesterday.
A Conference of Norwegian Shipmasters, presided over by the Prime Minister, passed a resolution requesting the Department of Commerce to appoint a committee to consider measures for the protection of Norwegian vessels in Chinese Waters Against Pirates, and to secure compensation for the victims.—Reuter.

HOOVER'S POLICY

To Aid Stabilisation Of Business

Washington, Yesterday.
The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce has appointed twenty outstanding business financial leaders as an executive committee to promote the stabilisation of business, in accordance with President Hoover's policy.—Reuter's American Service.

"BLUE RIBAND"

Medal For Commander Byrd, Explorer

Washington, Yesterday.
The Smithsonian Institution has awarded Commander Byrd the Langley Medal for aerial exploration of the Antarctic. The medal, which is also held by Col. Lindbergh, is considered as the blue riband of American aviation.—Reuter's American Service.

FRENCH WAR DEBT

U.S. Passes Bill For Settlement

Washington, Yesterday.
The House of Representatives by 239 votes to 100 passed a Bill providing for a settlement of the French war debt to the United States, amounting to \$4,025,000,000. The Bill now goes to the Senate.—Reuter's American Service.

Mr. F. Goodwin, the Interport cricketer, returned to Hong Kong yesterday by the "Antenor" after a holiday at home. He is with the Hong Kong & China Gas Co., Ltd. Mr. Goodwin has played cricket for Hong Kong and has excellent performances to his credit, for Kowloon Cricket Club, in League and friendly matches.

A Chinese named Ah So, of No. 11, Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai, was killed yesterday when he fell into a hold of the s.s. "Yamahime Maru" at buoy 50, while assisting to unload coal. The body was taken to the Kowloon mortuary.

Mrs. J. E. Anderson, wife of Mr. J. E. Anderson, of the Anderson Music Co., Ltd., returned yesterday on the "Empress of Asia," accompanied by Miss Anderson.

MONEY LEFT

Chinese Foreman Who Had \$81,500

A local foreman who died at the age of 44, leaving six sons and four daughters (the eldest of his children being 17 and the youngest 3), left \$81,500 for his family.

Deceased was Fung Foo (or Fung Fu), chief foreman of Kwong Sang Hong, Ltd., manufacturers. He died at No. 182, Wanchai Road, on January 29, 1929. Letters of administration have now been granted by the Supreme Court to the widow, Fung Leung Shi. Wong Kam-ching, who died at Ngau Wan, Sanwui district, Kwangtung, on July 1, 1929, left \$28,200 in Hong Kong. Probate has been granted to the widow, Wong Chan Shi, of 1 Fat Hing Street, Hong Kong.

A farmer, Lam Yee-man, who died intestate in Kwoon Tong, Fun U district, Kwangtung, on May 19, 1929, left \$4,100 in this Colony. Letters of administration have been granted to the widow, Lam Leung Shi, of 21, Ship Street, Hong Kong.

GRIM PRISON FIGHT

Governor Recovers From His Wounds

New York, Yesterday.
A grim battle between troops in full war equipment and the convicts has ended, the troops killing the seven ringleaders in the south block before the remainder of the mutineers (four of whom were shot early in the fight) were rounded up and returned to the cells, and the revolt quelled.

Governor Jennings, who survived almost certain death, in an interview in hospital to-day, said that the mutineers, believing they might bargain for their freedom, put himself and seven other warder hostages in front of them, and slowly advanced into the great hall, "when suddenly, with astonishing bravery a State trooper stepped into full range of their guns and threw a gas bomb."

In the ensuing melee the Governor escaped, after receiving a severe blow on the head.

The main body of convicts numbering 1,500, have been passive, but restless, awaiting developments. All have now returned to their cells.—Reuter's American Service.

WANG EXPELLED

Nanking Gives The Boot To Party Nuisance

Nanking, Yesterday.
The Central Executive Committee this morning decided to expel Wang Ching-wed from the party and order his arrest. The decision is to be submitted to the Central Yuan for confirmation.

This action is regarded as of great importance, disposing once and for all of rumours of a possible compromise between the Left Wing and the National Government.

Everything is quiet in the city, and there is no fighting in Pukow. It is believed the Government is planning to hold the positions, and concentrate on a drive against Tang Seng-chi from Hankow.—Reuter.

COTTON PRODUCTION

To Be Curtailed In Japan

Osaka, Yesterday.
The General Committee of the Japanese Cotton Spinners' Association decided to-day to curtail production of cotton yarn, and to appoint a special committee to recommend the extent and method of curtailment, by January 15. Curtailment is considered necessary because of increased production of yarns in recent months, and declining prices.

Newspapers are vigorously criticising the action of the spinners, because they consider the curtailment will artificially increase the price.—Reuter.

Mr. C. E. L. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, came back yesterday on the Blue Funnel steamer "Antenor." During his holiday at home, Mr. Grist was married and Mr. Grist accompanied him out.

An attempt is to be made by the Government to secure by Christmas the passage of the bill dealing with the coal industry. Socialist M.P.s are of opinion that, despite Mr. Snowden's protest, they will be successful in their demand for an all-round increase of unemployment benefit.

Houses were swamped, the railway service was interrupted, and livestock was carried off by a flood of the Tyne. The water rose to a foot from the Whitechapel Pit, near Haltwhistle.

Probably the South Wales and Monmouthshire Coal Marketing Scheme, linking the regulation of output and price, will be adopted by the Government as the basis of the national scheme.

Appealing on behalf of the Diocesan Fund, the Bishop of London says that the clergy are breaking down through overwork and they are, not being paid what is agreed to be the minimum stipend they should receive.

EXCHANGES

TO-DAY'S QUOTATIONS

On London—

Bank, wire 1/8 1/2

Bank, on demand 1/8 3/16

Bank, 30 days' sight 1/8 3/16

Bank, 4 months' sight 1/8 3/16

Credits, 4 months' sight 1/9 1/2

Documentary 4 months' sight 1/9 1/4

On Paris—

On demand 1042 1/2

Credits, 4 months' sight 1117 1/2

On Berlin—

On demand 41 1/2

Credits, 60 days' sight 42 1/2

On Bombay—

Wire 112 1/2

On demand 112 1/2

On Calcutta—

Wire 112 1/2

On demand 112 1/2

On Singapore—

On demand 72 1/2

On Manila—

On demand 82

On Shanghai—

On demand 75 1/2

30 days' sight (private paper) —

On Yokohama—

On demand 83 1/2

Gold Leaf, 100 fine (per tael) —

Sovereigns (Bank's buying rate) 11.43

Silver (per oz.) 22 9/16

Bar Silver in Hong Kong 3% prem.

Copper Cash Nominal

Copper Cents 3% prem.

Rate of Native Interest 7% p.a.

Chinese Sub. Coin 23% dis.

Hong Kong Sub. Coin Par.

LONDON EXCHANGES

London, Yesterday.

Paris 123.905

New York 4.88 3/32

Brussels 34.86

Geneva 25.11

Amsterdam 12.09 1/4

Milan 93.225

Berlin 20.38

Stockholm 18.095

Copenhagen 18.185

Oslo 18.205

Vienna 34.68

Prague 164 1/2

Helsingfors 194 1/2

Madrid 35.145

Lisbon 108.25

Athens 375

Bucharest 818

Rio 5 25/32

Buenos Aires 46 7/32

Bombay 1/5 29/32

Shanghai 2/2 1/2

Hong Kong 1/8 1/2

Yokohama 2/0 3/32

Silver Spot & Forward 22 9/16

—British Wireless Service

UNIQUE ENGINE

High Boiler Pressure For New Locomotive

Rugby, Yesterday.
The largest and most powerful locomotive in Britain, constructed by the London and North-Eastern Railway, is now ready for trials. It is of unique design, the boiler being constructed to the extreme limit of railway gauge, leaving no room for the chimney to project above it. The chimney therefore has been sunk within the casing, and so arranged as to throw the smoke clear of the driver.

The locomotive has a boiler pressure of 450 lbs. per square inch, which is the highest ever used for a British locomotive. The pressure hitherto used has been between 200 and 250 pounds, and the increase necessitates the use of a boiler of a water tube type which has never in the past been applied to a locomotive.—British Wireless Service.

1st STOP NEW YORK

Air Passengers To Land On Hotel Site

New York, Yesterday.
In order that alrship passengers may in future be able to land in the heart of the city, instead of at Lakehurst landing ground, 75 miles away, an 85-story skyscraper is being erected on the site of the old Waldorf Astoria Hotel. It will be surmounted by a mooring mast 200 feet high, and will act as a trans-Atlantic alrship terminus.—Reuter's American Service.

NEW TARIFFS

Canberra, Yesterday.
Further alterations in the Australian tariffs are announced by the new Labour Treasurer. The changes involve increased duties on certain classes of electrical goods, and on fur hats, oils, paints, chinaware, and motor accessories. A duty of ninepence per pound has been imposed upon wool-tops, which hitherto have been duty free.—Reuter.

Canada's Mightiest Mountains flank this New Scenic Route across CANADA



Cross Canada through the heart of her mightiest mountains by this scenic route of the lowest altitude and easiest gradient of any transcontinental line. View the wonders of Jasper National Park, then on to the east, where Niagara Falls and other attractions beckon.

Daily trains from Vancouver. All-steel; radio-equipped; splendid meals moderately priced.

For rates, literature and information apply Asiatic Building, Hong Kong.

CANADIAN NATIONAL

The Largest Railway System in North America

(SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY)

G. FALCONER & CO., (HONG KONG) LTD

WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS
DIAMOND MERCHANTS.

Union Building (Opposite G.P.O.)

Agents for:— ADMIRALTY CHARTS,
ROSS'S BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES,
KELVIN'S NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,
ENGLISH SILVERWARE, direct from Manufacturers.
High Class English Jewellery.

HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE.

Opening Daily Official Quotations 13th December, 1929.

Stock.	Buyers	Sellers	Sales	Non	Dividend.
Banks.					
Hong Kong Bank	...	1330	...	...	£3 Int. 1929
Chartered Bank	...	...	...	...	7 1/2 Int. 1929
Mercantile Bk., A.B.	...	...	...	...	20 Int. 1929
Do., C.	...	...	...	...	8 Int. 1929
Bank of Asia	95	...	...	...	8 Int. 1929
Insurance.					
Canton Ins.	...	...	...	695	40 Int. 1928
Union Ins.	807	...	...	...	52 Int. 1928
Yangtze Ins.	...	...	...	60	M. \$5.50 1928
China Underwriters	...	230	...	...	18 Int. 1928
China Fire Ins.	...	...	...	...	18 Int. 1927
H. K. Fire Ins.	...	...	...	...	18 Int. 1927
Shipping.					
Douglases	...	...	...	35 1/2	4 Int. 1924
H. K. Steamships	26 1/2	...	...	...	12 Int. 1924
Indo-China (Pref.)	40	...	...	...	1 Int. 1925
(Del.)	...	...	...	70	5 Int. 1928
Shell Transport	...	...	...	...	1.50 Int. 1928
Union Steamships	...	...	...	...	1.50 Int. 1928
Mining.					
Benguet	...	...	...	...	0.25 Int. 1929
Kailash Mining Ad.	...	...	...	...	2 Int. 1929
Langkat (Cont.)	...	...	...	...	18.50 Int. 1929
(Single)	...	...	...	...	7 Int. 1929
S'hai Exploration	...	...	...	...	1.80 Int. 1929
Loans	...	...	...	...	5 Int. 1929
Rails	...	...	...	...	11.30 Int. 1929
Trough Mines	...	...	...	...	21 Int. 1929
Docks, Wharves, Godowns, &c.					
H. K. & S. Wharves	...	...	...	...	145 Int. 1928
H. K. & W. Docks	...	...	...	...	4 Int. 1924
China Providents	...	...	...	...	1.20 Int. 1924
Hongkew	...	...	...	...	7 Int. 1929
N. Engineering	...	...	...	...	0.40 Int. 1929
Shanghai Docks	...	...	...	...	7 Int. 1928
Cotton Mills.					
Ewo Cottons	...	...	...	14.20	T0.40 Int. 1929
S'hai Cottons (old)	...	...	...	...	T1.25 Int. 1929
(new)	...	...	...	...	T0.60 Int. 1929
Zoong Sing	...	...	...	...	...
Lands, Hotels & Buildings.					
H. K. & S. Hotels	...	...	...	...	1.30 Int. 1924
H. K. Lands	...	...	...	...	2 Int. 1929
Shanghai Lands	...	...	...	...	7 Int. 1929
Humphreys	...	...	...	...	1 Int. 1928
H. K. Realities	...	...	...	...	0.80 Int. 1929
Chinese Estates	...	...	...	...	4 Int. 1928
Public Utilities.					
H. K. Tramways	...	...	...	...	0.50 Int. 1929
Peak Tram (old)	...	...	...	...	0.50 Int. 1929
(new)	...	...	...	...	0.50 Int. 1929
Star Ferries	...	...	...	...	0.50 Int. 1929
Ch. Light (old)	...	...	...	...	0.25 Int. 1929
(new)	...	...	...	...	0.25 Int. 1929
H. K. Electric	...	...	...	...	3.50 Int. 1929
Macao	...	...	...	...	...
Sandakan Lights	...	...	...	...	...
H. K. Telephones	...	...	...	...	0.10 Int. 1929

Sport Columns

INTERPORT REGATTA LOCAL GOSSIP ON TO-MORROW

R. H. K. Y. C. GOING TO CANTON

FOUR BIG EVENTS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Canton, Yesterday. There is a good deal of interest in the forthcoming Interport Regatta which is being held on Saturday. There will be races for Senior Fours and Pairs, Junior Fours and Pairs, a Naval race and a race for canoes.

It is a pity that the V.R.C. are unable to send up any crews, but the R.H.K.Y.C. are sending up crews to participate in the Senior Fours and Pairs and the Junior Fours and Pairs. The original idea was also to have Griffin Fours and Pairs, and Canton had two very promising crews, but unfortunately Hong Kong were unable to put up crews for these two events. However, it is hoped that the four big events of the day will be of sufficient interest to make the Regatta worth while, not to mention the Naval and Canoe races.

Hard Luck

The Senior Fours (Shamoon) have been having a run of hard luck. Just when they had settled down into a really well-balanced crew, they lost Deyhler, who has gone on leave to Germany. They then recruited M. Schloemer, a good and powerful oar, who had temporarily given up rowing, and had just settled down again and were doing good times, when Schloemer went down with malaria and it is uncertain whether he will be able to take his place in the boat. W. Eckert has been taking his place for the time being, and is a neat oar, but it is questionable whether he will be able to stand a grueling race, as he is no longer quite the youthful oar he was. However, it is hoped that Schloemer will be able to row on that day. It is unfortunate that the Regatta had to be postponed from last month.

The crews of the Senior Fours is as follows:—
Bow: O. Friesner, 150 lb.; 2. M. Schloemer, 170 lb.; 3. H. J. Froelich, 160 lb.; Stroke: R. R. Remussen, 165 lb.; Cox: W. Seifert, 135 lb.

The Senior Pairs

The Senior Pairs are the same pair that walked away from Schmidt and Deyhler, the crack Hong Kong pair, who had romped away with everything they met in the Interport Regatta last Spring. They are in fine fettle and will require a good crew to beat them, though the postponement of the Regatta has possibly caused them to train a bit too finely.

The Junior Fours this time are quite a promising crew and have shaped well in their stroke. W. R. Ashby, they have a tower of strength more than makes up for this by the immense reserves of vitality he can call upon. The crew is:—
Bow: H. Leynaud, 155 lb.; 2. M. Gavin, 165 lb.; 3. F. Peterson, 150 lb.; Stroke: W. R. Ashby, 190 lb.; Cox: Busse, 150 lb.

The Junior Pairs are also out of the Fours, Ashby stroking and Peterson as bow. A balanced pair, with a good deal of "guts".

Naval Race

The Naval Race will be from ships of the French and British gunboats. The Canoe race for members of both Clubs, over 1/4 a mile.

Trophies:—The Senior Fours will be racing for the "Cameron Cup." The Senior Pairs for the newly-presented "Schubert" trophy, which has been presented by Mr. A. Schubert of Messrs. Reuter Brockelmann & Co., a truly beautiful cup. The Junior Fours will row for the Telegraph Cup and the Junior Pairs for the newly-presented "Otto Cup," presented by Mr. W. Otto of Canton.

The Committee of the Canton Rowing Club are working hard at the arrangements for the Regatta. There will be several gunboats anchored on the river for spectators, besides the usual string of houseboats and motor-launches, and flower-boats for the competitors.

It is hoped that a number of Hong Kong residents will come up to swell the number of spectators. In the evening, after the Regatta, there will be a rowing dinner to entertain all the guests from Hong Kong, which will take place in the Victoria Hotel. Later there will be a dance in the Canton Club.

GUNNERS FALL TO RECREIO

WEEK'S GAMES IN A NUTSHELL

To-morrow's Battle Royal

[By "Roamer"]

The unexpected happened at the Stadium last Saturday. By splendid support given to the Athletic versus South China match it was obvious that a great game was anticipated. Did we get any thrills? No, in fact the general run of the play was far below championship standard of which these teams are capable, judging by their records for this season. Nerves and questionable play ruined the game, there being very little good football.

Quite a different story can, however, be told over the game at Sookumpoo where the Gunners suffered defeat at the hands of Recreio. It was a splendid performance by both elevens for play was of high order. Rochais return to an already improved side with Ward on the target twice gave Recreio a convincing victory. Fletcher played well in his citadel and saved his side from heavier defeat. The Gunners were by no means disgraced for they fought hard to overcome a very lively opposition.

A little more goal scoring should have occurred in the St. Joseph's v. Club game. Granted that ball control is very difficult with the ground so hard and ball light, but why sky it so much. Kept low with medium length passes would overcome this difficulty for a mere touch by the foot putting the ball to the side and in front would be all the steady required for good drives, a fair percentage resulting in goals. St. Joseph's must consider themselves in luck's way by snatching victory for the Club should easily have registered two on the run of the play.

By their well earned victory over Kowloon the "Sets" are now at the head of the Senior's table. It is to be hoped that the injury to Harris will soon yield to treatment and not necessitate his absence from the side for long. The Somersets eleven are very well balanced and with a potential interport left wing, I, for one, am looking to them to hold their own against all comers and prove to be the Senior trophy holders after April 1.

My prediction in anticipating a surprise result by the Police mastering the Navy failed lamentably. It must be very disappointing to have a line of weak forwards in front of one. Wynne, Muir and Hudson worked like Trojans and deserved a better fate. With a rest for the next three weeks the Police may possibly bring their run of failures to a close.

With the Juniors

The Navy made short work of Ewo to the tune of eight without response, but credit must be given to the Ewo eleven for holding their opponents to one penetration during the first half. South China now hold the best record in both Divisions for the season. With goal average of twelve to one, unbeaten, and having lost one point only, this is the likely side to seriously threaten the K.O.S.B. for the Junior trophy. Admittedly it is rash to predict the Junior Champions at this stage, but one cannot resist enthusing over such a splendid record.

After showing promise in the first half, St. Joseph's, by holding their opponents to a goal each, were well beaten by the Scots, the lads from over the border netting four times after the interval. The K.O.S.B. side, as a whole, are standing the pace very well for, in addition to two League fixtures weekly they have several trophy competition fixtures to get through whilst at Sun Wai. This week will find them back again in Barracks when the wearisome journeys will cease.

The Somersets came back to form, claiming both points from Kowloon, by registering four to their opponents' one. Latton did his side good service by scoring two and being concerned in the third, the fourth coming from the foot of Baggett.

In the Eastern v. South China "B" match the outstanding feature was Salleh's long range (about forty yards) shot that sailed beautifully into the net, completely deceiving Shin Tin-lum. Eastern confounded the critics in a very convincing manner for a draw was the prediction, not a runaway victory of five to one.

The Gunners were lucky in sharing the spoils with Chinese "B" for defeat would have been their lot had the Chinese finished off their efforts with a little more accuracy.

To-morrow's Games

The Colony's highways and byways should have one direction to-morrow, the end of the journeys being the Club Ground at Happy Valley. Why? one asks? Well, are not the "Civilians" and "Army" meeting in the Lai Wah Cup final. Do not forget to be early as the kick-off is timed for 3.30 p.m., to admit, should necessity arise, of extra time being played. The Army side is, I believe, to have three changes from the team that defeated the Navy, Reeves, Everest, and Lyson displacing Hayward, Knapp, and Rayson, respectively. Who will be the victors is the question being asked by many, and it forcibly put to me I should hope for the Army to pull out that little extra bit to stand me in good stead. There being no senior fixtures the Club stands should be packed to their full capacity.

Of the seven Junior games the K.O.S.B. should hold the improved Eastern side and be satisfied with a small margin victory. South China "A" requiring a cribbage board to record the score against Chinese "B", the R.A.M.C. turning out and taking their by accounting for Ewo, while the remaining games are very close. An odd goal should decide the University v. South China "B" and St. Joseph's v. Kowloon games, Recreio and Club being satisfied with a point each while the Navy should overcome Chinese "A" after a hard game.

Full programmes and League tables to date are appended:—
Lai Wah Cup Final (3.30 p.m.)
"Civilians" v. "Army", Club Ground, Happy Valley.
Division II (2.30 p.m.)
K.O.S.B. v. Eastern, Sookumpoo.
South China "A" v. Chinese "B", Caroline Hill.
Ewo v. R.A.M.C., Chinese Ground, Happy Valley.
Recreio v. Club, King's Park, Kowloon.
Chinese "A" v. Navy, The Stadium, North Point.
St. Joseph's v. Kowloon, St. Joseph's Ground, Happy Valley.

LEAGUE TABLES TO DATE

Division I	P	W	D	L	Goals	F	A	Pts
Somersets	9	7	1	1	19	6	15	14
K.O.S.B.	11	5	4	2	17	8	14	14
Navy	8	5	2	1	17	4	12	12
South China	8	5	1	2	18	6	11	11
Kowloon	8	3	2	3	11	15	10	10
R.A.	9	4	1	4	15	13	9	9
Recreio	8	2	1	5	9	18	5	5
Club	8	1	2	5	7	15	4	4
St. Joseph's	9	2	0	7	8	28	1	1
Police	9	0	1	8	8	28	1	1

Division II	P	W	D	L	Goals	F	A	Pts
K.O.S.B.	19	16	0	3	74	15	52	32
Navy	12	8	3	1	39	7	10	19
S. China "A"	9	8	1	0	36	3	17	17
Somersets	15	7	3	5	37	24	17	17
Chinese "A"	9	7	1	1	30	11	15	15
Chinese "B"	9	4	2	3	17	15	10	10
St. Joseph's	10	4	2	4	25	27	10	10
Eastern	9	4	1	4	18	19	9	9
Kowloon	10	4	1	5	19	27	9	9
R.A.	12	3	3	6	19	27	9	9
University	8	2	1	5	10	25	6	6
S. China "B"	10	2	1	7	15	34	6	6
Recreio	9	1	3	5	9	34	6	6
R.A.M.C.	12	1	1	10	12	40	3	3
Club	8	1	1	6	6	34	3	3
Ewo	9	0	2	7	8	32	2	2

K.F.C. 2ND XI. TO PLAY S. CHINA "B"

The following team has been selected to represent Kowloon second eleven versus South China "B" on Saturday on the K.F.C. ground, kick off at 2.30 p.m. sharp:—
Angus (Junior); Guest, Eastman; Hast, Easterbrook, Dunnett; Philpott.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL CUP

DRAW FOR FIRST ROUND ANNOUNCED

HOLDER'S LUCK

Glasgow, Yesterday. The draw for the first round of the Scottish Cup, to be played on January 18, resulted as follows:—

Motherwell v. East Stirlingshire.
Arbroath v. Galston.
Albion Rovers v. Alloa.
Dalbeattie Star v. Partick Thistle.
St. Bernards v. Third Lanark.
Buckie Thistle v. Falkirk.
Murrayfield Amateurs v. Burntisland Shipyard.
Stranraer v. Dundee United.
Inverness Caledonians v. Celtic.
Dumbarton v. Cowdenbeath.
Dundee v. Morton.
Civil Services Strollers v. Clachnacudden.
Bo'ness v. St. Johnstone.
Mid-Annanvale v. Ayr United.
Airdrieonians v. Dunfermline.
Hibernians v. Leith Amateurs.
Hamilton Academicals v. Stenhousemuir.
East Fife v. Queen of the South.
Clyde v. Keith.
Forfar Athletic v. Brechin City.
Peterhead v. Vale of Leithen.
Royal Albert v. Beith.
King's Park v. Bathgate.
Nithsdale Wanderers v. St. Andrew's University.
Inverness Citadel v. Armadale.
St. Cuthbert Wanderers v. St. Mirren.
Queen's Park v. Rangers.
Kilmarnock (holders) v. Paisley Academicals.
Solway Star v. Montrose.
Hearts v. Clydebank.
Falkirk Amateurs v. Leith Athletic.
Raith Rovers v. Aberdeen.

OXFORD v. CAMBRIDGE

London, Yesterday. The Association football match between Oxford and Cambridge was drawn—one goal each.
Bradshaw scored for Oxford and Kemp-Welch for Cambridge.—Reuter.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Club Team For To-day's Match

A match is arranged for to-day between a Club "A" side and a XV from H.M.S. "Kent" at 4.45 p.m. The Club side is as follows:—
Backs: S. J. H. Fox; Threequarters, C. E. Holmes, G. A. L. Plummer, J. A. Ross, A. D. Coppin; Halfbacks, J. D. Hutcheon, I. Grant; Forwards, E. R. West, A. D. Sutcliffe, Laidlaw, T. Marshall, F. R. Burch, B. P. Massey, B. L. Stock, and U. R. Gordon.
Referee: Capt. E. B. Deakin.

HOCKEY

Y.M.C.A. Defeat Varsity Team

At King's Park yesterday the Y.M.C.A. were at home to a hockey side from the University, and the former won an exciting game by three goals to nil.
Goal scorers were Petterick, Ashton and Kearns.

CRICKET

The following will represent the University 2nd XI in a friendly match against the H.K.C.C. to-morrow at 2 p.m. sharp at Pokfulam:—
A. A. Aziz (Captain), A. B. Suliman, A. Chan Fook, K. T. Loke, K. P. Gan, G. E. Yeoh, C. Candah, H. E. M. Adams, P. L. Tan, S. Otani and A. T. Normanbhoy.

King, Nicholls, Coates, Bickford. Reserves: Springett, Hannan, Seddon. The following players have been selected to play for Chinese Athletic against the Royal Navy in a friendly match on Sunday at 4 p.m. at North Point Stadium:—Chan Sek-pui, Ng Kam-chuen, Lai Yuk-tat, Ho Cho-yin, Wong Shui-wa, Lam Yuk-ying, Tso Kwai-sing, Ho Ka-keung, Wong Pak-chong, Suen Kam-suen, and Chan Kwong-lu.

WATER RETURN

Level and Storage of water in Reservoirs on December 1, 1929.—
CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATER WORKS.

	1928	1929
Tytam	15' 2" B	9' 8" B
Tytam Byewash	25' 6" B	20' 0" B
Tytam Intermediate	0' 2" B	0' 4" B
Tytam Tuk	34' 11" B	21' 9" B
Wong Nei Chung	20' 7" B	15' 7" B
Pokfulam	21' 9" B	7' 4" B

[Note: B. denotes "Below Overflow"; A. denotes "Above Overflow"; L. denotes "Level with Overflow."]

Storage in million and decimals of gallons	1928	1929
Tytam	268.33	307.44
Tytam Byewash	56	2.68
Tytam Intermediate	194.03	194.02
Tytam Tuk	707.33	942.01
Wong Nei Chung	9.45	13.27
Pokfulam	21.15	49.98
Total	1,201.83	1,509.40

Consumption of water in the City and Hill District in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of November.

	1928	1929
Consumption	196.17	212.32
Estimated population	427,400	437,720
Consumption per head per day	15.3	16.1

Services to houses in the Rider Main Districts were disconnected and a supply was given by public street fountains only during November, 1928, November, 1929.
From 1st to 12th inclusive a 16-hour supply (6 a.m.—9 p.m.) was given to all Rider Main Districts. Principal Mains closed 9 p.m.—6 a.m.
From 13th to 30th inclusive a 12-hour supply (6 a.m.—6 p.m.) was given to all Rider Main Districts. Principal Mains closed 6 p.m.—6 a.m.

KOWLOON WATER WORKS

	1928	1929
Kowloon Reservoir	110' B	3' 0" A
Shek Lai Pui Reservoir	110' B	3' 10" B
Reception Reservoir	—	2' 7" B

Storage in million and decimals of gallons	1928	1929
Kowloon Reservoir	343.84	385.00
Shek Lai Pui Reservoir	108.66	82.98
Reception Reservoir	—	26.40
Total	452.50	494.38

Consumption of water in Kowloon in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of November.

	1928	1929
Consumption	105.21	114.11
Estimated population	167,800	172,840
Consumption per head per day	20.0	22.0

Constant Supply in all districts during November 1928 and 1929.

The Government Analyst's reports show that the quality of the water is satisfactory.
Total rainfall: November 30, 1928, 71.14; November 1929, 69.41.

STANDARD TIMES

Sunrise and Sunset In Colony

Sunrise and Sunset in Hong Kong for December (Standard Time of the 120th Meridian, East of Greenwich), are as follows:—

December	a.m.	p.m.
13	6.54	5.40
14	6.54	5.41
15	6.55	5.41
16	6.56	5.41
17	6.56	5.42
18	6.57	5.42
19	6.57	5.43
20	6.58	5.43
21	6.58	5.44
22	6.59	5.44
23	6.59	5.45
24	7.00	5.45
25	7.00	5.46
26	7.01	5.46
27	7.01	5.47
28	7.02	5.48
29	7.02	5.48
30	7.02	5.49
31	7.03	5.49

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World News In Pictures

Aide to Ex-Kaiser Dies



Prince Bernhard von Buelow many times called Germany's "second Bismarck," died in Rome at the villa left him by his wife, the former Italian Princess Maria Beccadelli di Bologna. Prince Von Buelow has passed second only to Bismarck and the outstanding figure in the history of German statesmanship.

New Ecuador Minister



Dr. Homero Valeri Lafont, the newly appointed Minister from Ecuador, calls at the White House to present his letters of credence to President Hoover. Accompanying the Minister were (left to right) J. Barberis, Secretary of the Ecuador Legation; Dr. Lafont, Hon. Francis Carlos Mantilla, Attache of the Ecuador Legation.

A Sino-Belgian Gathering



Dr. Chu Ming-yi, Chairman of the Sino-Belgian Boxer Indemnity Fund Commission, was the host at a luncheon given in honour of the Belgian Consul-General, Mr. J. Van Haute, and the Acting Consul-General, Mr. R. J. Guillaume. Dr. Wong King-chi (former Chinese Minister to Belgium), Mr. S. U. Zau (Director of the Shanghai Office of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labour), Chev. S. K. Chen (Director of the Shanghai office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and others were present.—(C. H. Wong Studio).

Award Of Honour



The three distinguished Americans who have rendered outstanding services to their country and chosen as the recipients of the Roosevelt Medal for 1929 are shown here after being presented with the award by James Garfield, President of the Roosevelt Memorial Association. They are (left to right) Owen Wister, well-known author, Owen D. Young, Reparations Commissioner and War Debt Expert, Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, and James R. Garfield.

Advocate Of World Peace



For his efforts in the cause of world peace, Representative Hamilton Fish, Jun., eulogized Owen D. Young at the dedication in Washington of the Tower of International Justice and World Peace. With Representative Fish (left to right) are: Rev. Charles E. Emmens, Dr. F. W. Perkins, Rev. Frank Adams and Rev. Herbert E. Benton.

China's "Princess"



"Princess" Der Ling, First Lady in Waiting at the Manchu Court of the late Empress Dowager of China. The "Princess" is on a lecture tour in the United States, where she is becoming quite a favourite among social leaders.

Senator Seeks Re-election



Senator George W. Norris, Nebraska, announced himself as a candidate for re-election in 1930.

Counters Divorce



Irene Bondini, noted singer of French songs, gave an unusual rendition in Chicago, when she filed suit for annulment of her marriage to E. Ray Goetz, theatrical producer.

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All the Poise
of a
Drum Major



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of a
Radio Announcer.



The Attention that
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Caught Short in the
Market
Gives the Ticker



The Perseverance and
Optimism of an Ancient
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and the Pride with which a
Bride Ties, Her New Hubby's
Tie.



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Good.

Startled Congress



Senator Elmore, of South Carolina, who startled his fellow Congressmen by exhibiting opium which he declared had been purchased within a short distance of the Capitol. "I have told you that opium is being sold in places which you can see from a window of the Capitol. Here it is," said Elmore.

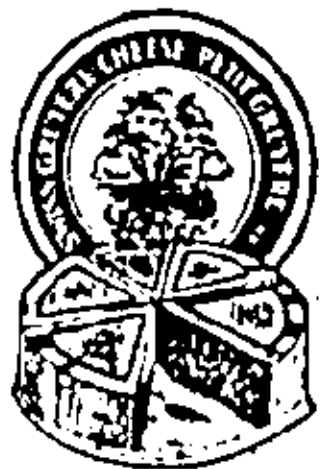
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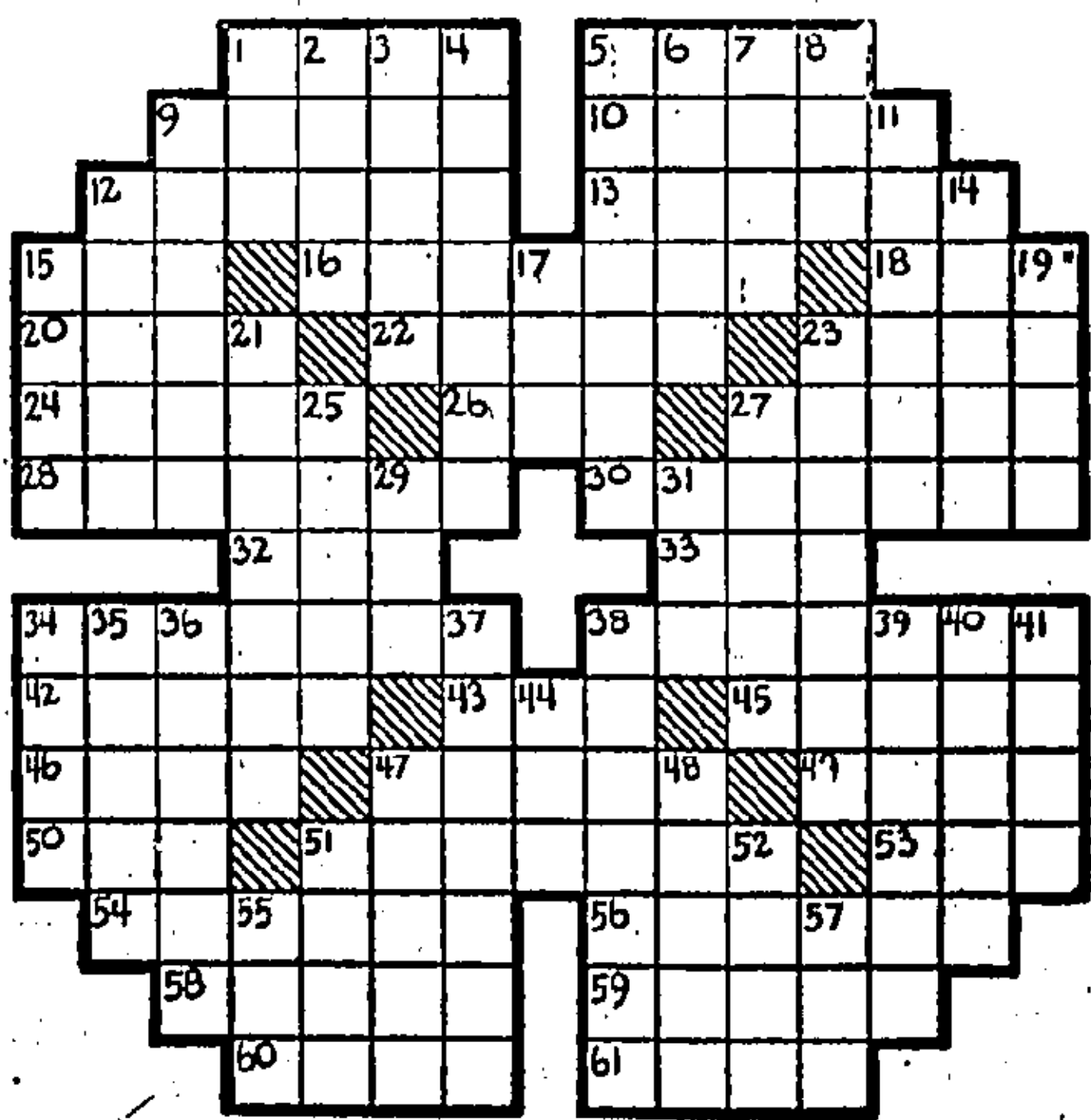
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DAILY CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

(This cross-word puzzle has been made by an expert but our readers are warned to look out for occasional phonetic spellings, such as harbor, plow, and altho.)



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| HORIZONTAL | HORIZONTAL (Cont.) | VERTICAL (Cont.) |
| 1-Range of mountains in W. China | 46-Makes mistakes | 15-Hastened |
| 5-English school | 47-Confagration | 17-Electrified atom |
| 9-A newly married woman | 48-Edge | 19-Tumors |
| 10-Slow gallop (pl.) | 49-Tiny | 21-Menda |
| 12-Fritter away | 51-Vanquishes | 23-Perseverently assails |
| 13-Belgian city | 53-Book of the Bible (abbr.) | 25-Tract of bare, hilly land |
| 15-Pronoun | 54-Pertaining to a ray | 27-Holy person |
| 16-Tiresome | 55-Drenched | 29-Pipe joint |
| 18-Moisture | 56-Compact | 31-Self |
| 20-Wharf | 59-Walk on | 34-Bolt slowly |
| 22-Blackens in speed | 60-Snare | 35-One who employs workers |
| 23-Invited | 61-Command | 36-Parade again |
| 24-Terminated | | 37-Suffocates |
| 25-Point of compass (abbr.) | VERTICAL | 38-Width |
| 27-Devil | 1-Prefix, "Three" | 39-Peered over in ship |
| 28-Autoarts | 2-Servant | 40-Collections of local legends |
| 30-Blunt | 3-Wastes time | 41-Abundant |
| 32-Tolerance | 4-Sewing implement (pl.) | 42-Edict |
| 33-Ship's boat | 5-Pushed rudely | 43-Beauteous repeat |
| 34-Altare | 6-Part of a flower | 44-Shop |
| 36-Bitter tonic herb | 7-Literary or musical composition | 45-Take dinner |
| 38-Rows | 8-Negative (abbr.) | 46-Entreats |
| 40-Black, sticky substance | 9-Propagates | 47-Lair |
| 42-Commerce | 10-Possessive pronoun | 48-Perched |
| | 14-Vehicle | |

(The solution of the above cross-word puzzle will appear in tomorrow's issue along with a new cross-word puzzle.)

Behind the Scenes in Hollywood

HELL'S HARBOUR

(By Dorothy Herzog)
Be that as it may, Gary Cooper is in Tampa, Florida. Lupe Valez has been there for weeks. Making "Hell's Harbour." Gary must have gotten sand in his shoes once so far from Hollywood as Grinnell College (his alma mater) in Iowa. It was a cinch to hop a train to Chattanooga and a plane from there. Which he did.
He did in spite of his denial to newspaper inquirers about being engaged to Lupe. Gary decried the village for insisting he was paired for life to loop-the-loop. "Go with a girl a couple of times and they have you engaged," he fumed in more or less those words. There be truth in that and logic in Hollywood's deduction of the case in paragraph. The trip to Florida is merely added weight.

REPLIES TO QUEUES

"A city woman, Indian summering in the Valley of the Moon, seeks information and please reply in your column. Why don't we ever hear more of that splendid young capable Malcolm McGregor who did such fine work in "Smouldering Fires" with Miss Frederick? Is J. Warren Kerrigan dropped for indifference? He is one of my few favourites. Where is he? (Signed) 7 D."

Mr. McGregor had a famine picture stretch when the talkies sent producers into a state of hysteria. I believe he has made several pictures recently. As for J. Warren Kerrigan, he retired from the screen some years ago and is living in Hollywood.



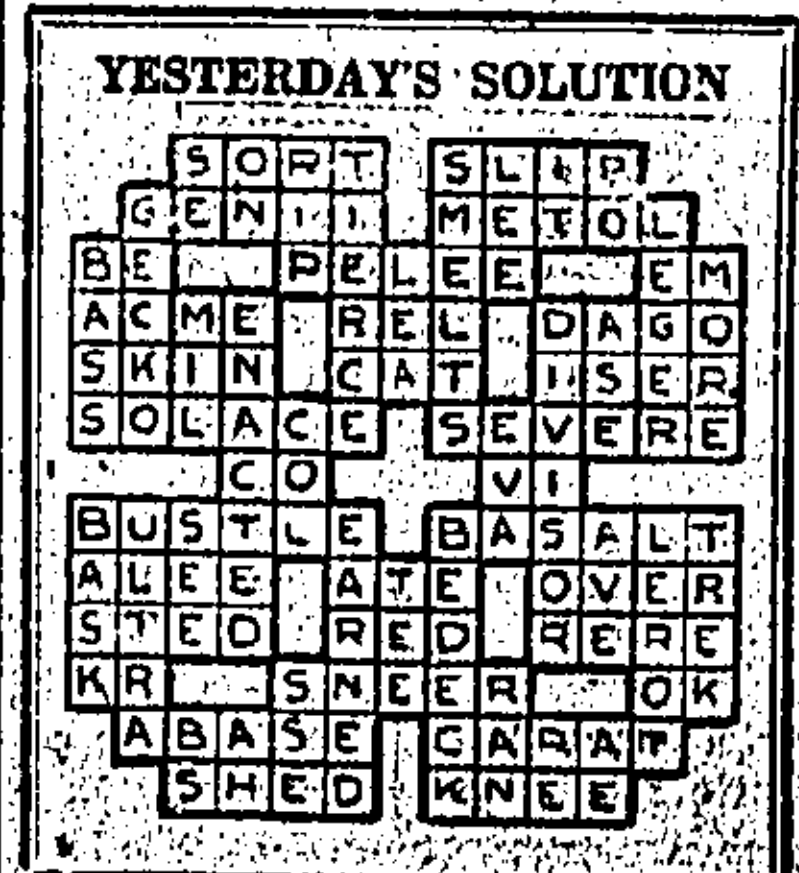
Mrs. Mabel Manton will revive her suit of five years ago against Marjorie Rambeau, famous dramatic star. Mrs. Manton is asking \$100,000 for Marjorie's alleged alienation of her husband's affections.

SHADES OF TOM

Tom Mix is gone but his western presence still hovers on the Fox lot. For a while, after his departure from the fold the Fox outfit abandoned western pictures. Then they produced "Old Arizona," a western of sorts but blessedly different. It was a box office lulu.

That started the high moguls to cogitating. Ergo, now they have a brand new idea. They're going to make westerns! Shades of Tom Mix. There is some talk of lining-up some of Zane Grey yarns and punching them into talkies.

George O'Brien turns open-space with a vengeance in "The Lone Star Ranger." George may make some more such. It depends. In westerns like "Old Arizona" he'd be well. In westerns that unreal the same old story—send for the miracle man. But keep a sharp lookout. Nature and horses will still be manna to the celluloid. After all, one can't go on forever sacrificing an evening to backstage goo-goo. Who'll give us modern westerns without tin foil trap-pings?



Lillian Foster, American actress, now appearing in London openly slapped the face of a British critic aroused by what she believed as unfair criticism by the Anti-American writer.

WALL STREET CRASH

Any one caught smiling too frequently these days is in mortal danger. Verily, the village moans and broods at least, a large share.

The blackness has been precipitated by the bottom dropping out of the stock market.

Hundreds of flick-ites plunged heavily in purchasing Famous Players stock. They bought in dizzy amounts and on margin. They figured to clean glittering fortunes when Famous merged with Warner Brothers. Many margin buyers are wiped out. Every cent of savings gone. No capital left. Only the weekly salary and the weekly salary in studio lore is as gamably a proposition as the market.

Hundreds of flick-ites purchased RKO stock. There was a "tip" going the luncheon table and other rounds that this stock would soar to a fancy figure. It forgot, along with other stocks.

There is devastating gloom on all the lots. By twos and threes, groups clique—and talk in low voices. Stubborn hope predominates. Hopeless reality is too frightening. Where they had thousands of dollars yesterday, they have less than a few to-day. It's unbelievable. But in numbers there is comfort, so groups cling together.

This bureau to-day heard of several directors and actors who were so wall-eyed over the financial condition that they closed their savings accounts and put the money in safety deposit vaults. They wouldn't trust the Rock of Gibraltar at this stage of the cataclysm.

But out of the tragic fog bursts Mervyn Leroy with a tip on the market which he guarantees will rectify all losses. "Buy American Moustache Cup," urges Mervyn. "Beards are coming back!"

Actress To Wed



Ann Murdock, well-known actress, is about to embark on her third matrimonial venture. Following two unsuccessful marriages with Americans, Miss Murdock's third choice is George Karabatsos, Greek Army Captain. The ceremony will be in Paris.

IN ALL LANGUAGES

Paramount Making Talking Films

Announcement has been made by the Paramount Famous Lasky Corporation of the completion of a series of talking and singing films in 13 different languages. These new films are not duplications, in another tongue, of American-made pictures, but are specially made productions featuring famous actors and actresses, as well as other public characters, from all over the world. Even Esperanto is represented in this effort to supply all countries with native language sound pictures.

All subjects are of one and two reel length, and the languages covered are Spanish, Portuguese, English, Finnish, Esperanto, French, Italian, Russian, Japanese, Swedish, German, Czech-Slovakian and Welsh.

The first of these films made was by Jose Bohr, the noted Argentinian singer and dancer. This was followed by Alfaro Sequeiros, the famous Mexican pantomimist, with impersonations. Others are: Mme. Josetti, foremost pianiste of Brazil, playing the Brazilian national anthem; Trio Matamoros in Spanish songs; Katherine Coehlo singing in Portuguese; Rudolfo Hoyos, famous baritone, singing Spanish songs; Irma Caron, Australian singer; Mme. Annie Mork, Finland's favourite actress, in a recitation; a novelty dialogue in Esperanto; Dorothy Helmrich in Australian songs; Anita La Pierre in French songs; Diana Millican and Alfredo Candi in Spanish songs; Aida Doninelli, member of the Metropolitan Opera Company, in Italian operatic airs; Perle Barti in Russian songs; Tamaki Mura, operatic singer in Japanese songs; a Spanish, Swedish and Portuguese dialogue version of "The Bishop's Candlesticks;" Seven Hedin, the famous explorer, giving an address in German, as well as Swedish, of his travels; Noutaro Okumura, well known Japanese newspaper editor, giving an address; Dr. Jaroslav Novak, New York Consul-General for Czech-Slovakia, giving an address in his native tongue; and David Davies in a novelty address in Welsh.

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The China Mail

Friday, December 13, 1929.
Eleventh Moon, 13th Day.

ESTABLISHED
1845

大英十二月十三號 禮拜五
中華民國已巳年十一月十三

HONG KONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1929.

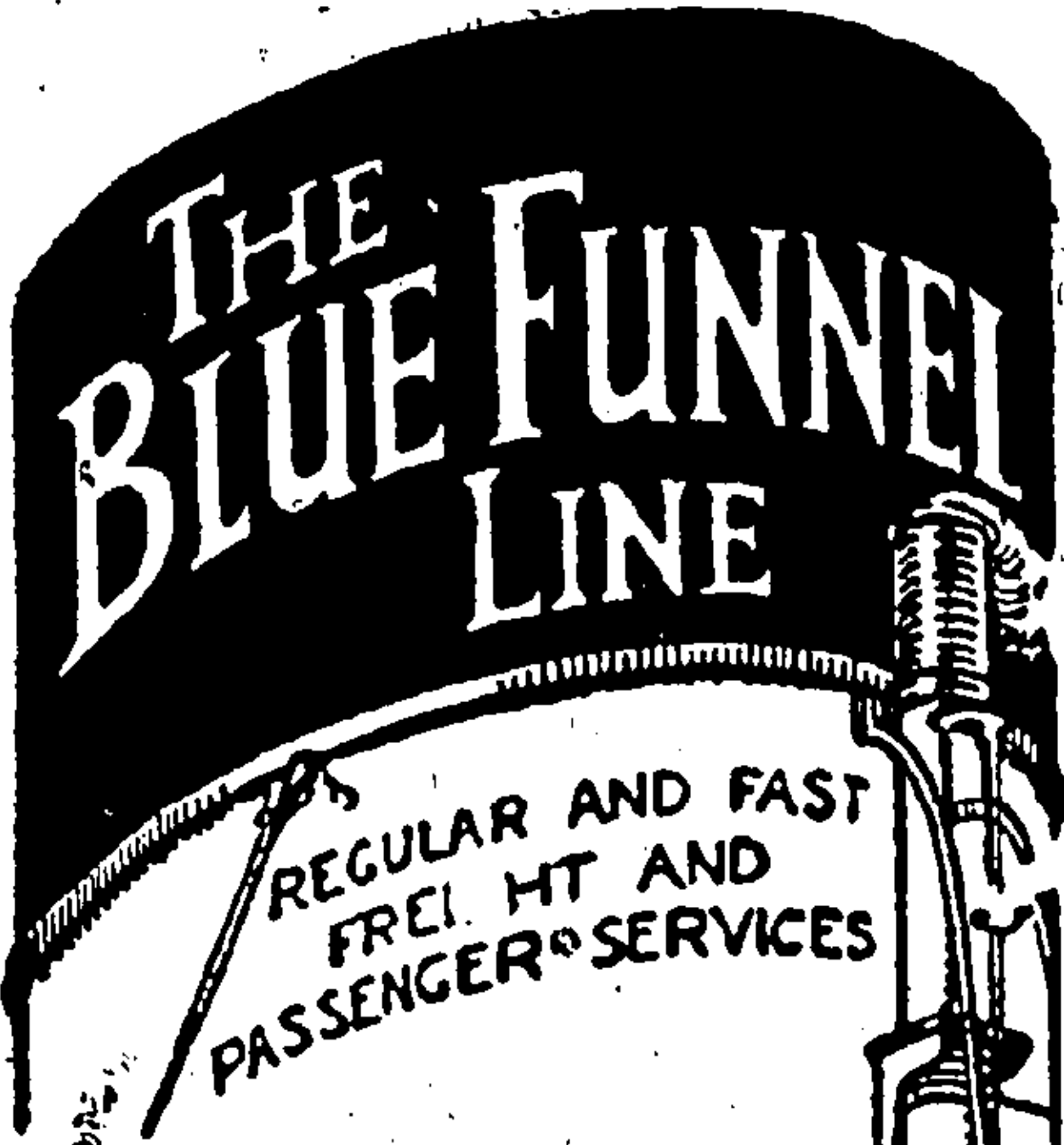
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INWARD SERVICE.

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POST OFFICE NOTICE.

RADIO NOTICES.

The Radio Office, where full information concerning all wireless services may be obtained at all times, is situated on the ground floor of the P. & O. Building in Des Voeux Road, next to the General Post Office.

Individuals and firms are recommended to register their telegraphic addresses at the Office. No charge is made for this.

From 15th December to 5th January inclusive radiotelegrams conveying Christmas and New Year Greetings will be accepted for transmission to Canada and the United States of America. For rates and other particulars apply to the Radiotelegraph Office.

INWARD MAILS

From	Per
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13.	
Japan and Shanghai	Dakar Maru
Japan and Shanghai	Hakone Maru
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14	
U.S.A. (San Francisco, Nov. 15), Honolulu	
Japan and Shanghai	Pres. van Buren
Shanghai and Swatow	Shantung
Japan	Muroran Maru
Europe via Negapatam (Letters only, London, Nov. 14)	Hongkong
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.	
Manila	President Lincoln
Europe via Negapatam (Papers only, London, Nov. 14)	Suisang
Straits	Bingo Maru
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16.	
Manila	Empress of Asia
U.S.A. (San Francisco, Nov. 20), Honolulu	
Japan and Shanghai	Taiyo Maru
U.S.A. (San Francisco, Nov. 22), Honolulu	
Japan and Shanghai	President Cleveland

OUTWARD MAILS

For	Per
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13.	
Formosa	Atlas Maru 8.30 p.m.
Bangkok	Hathor 4.30 p.m.
Tourane	Chung Kong 4.30 p.m.
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Aden, Egypt & Europe via Marseilles	Hakone Maru (Due Marseilles, Jan. 12, 1930.)
K.F.O.	G.P.O.
Registration Dec. 13, 4.30 p.m.	Registration Dec. 14, 8.45 a.m.
Letters Dec. 14, 9 a.m.	Letters Dec. 14, 9.30 a.m.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14	
Hohow, Pakhoi, Haiphong and Wuchow via Pakhoi	Chengtu 8.30 a.m.
Japan and Victoria, B.C.	Tenue 8.30 a.m.
	(Due Victoria, B.C., Jan. 8, 1930 and "Europe via Siberia.")
	Registration Dec. 14, 9.45 a.m.
	Letters Dec. 14, 10.30 a.m.
Straits and Calcutta	Takliwa 1 p.m.
	Letters 1 p.m.
Manila	Pres. van Buren 5 p.m.
Amoy	Anking 5 p.m.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.	
Hohow, Pakhoi, Haiphong and Wuchow via Pakhoi	Linhow 8.30 a.m.
Amoy	Linhow 8.30 a.m.
Swatow, Amoy and Formosa	Hokan Maru 9 a.m.
	Kingman 9 a.m.

MOTOR CYCLIST'S SPEED

30 MILES AN HOUR RATHER EXCESSIVE

PORTUGUESE FINED

"Thirty miles per hour on that part of Waterloo Road, on a motor cycle, seems to me to be somewhat excessive."

Thus said Mr. W. Schofield, at the Kowloon Magistracy to-day, when a summons for reckless and negligent driving on a motor cycle was heard against Mr. G. H. Ribeiro, of 1, Carnarvon Villas.

According to Traffic Sergeant F. G. Clarke, the incident occurred on November 25 at about 4.35 p.m., when he was coming down the incline of the Kowloon Hospital, on his motor cycle, and came behind the defendant's cycle in Waterloo Road going in the direction of Nathan Road.

Serjt. Clarke also pointed out that the defendant rode on the wrong side of the nullah.

It was alleged that the defendant's speed was between 40 to 45 m.p.h., and on passing under the railway bridge at Ho Mun Tin, the defendant swerved his motor cycle from side to side, to the danger of the coolie pedestrians. However, the defendant lowered his speed to 20 m.p.h. when nearing the Dogs' Home, in Waterloo Road.

The defendant held that his speed did not exceed 30 miles an hour, but, his Worship, on the other hand, pointed out that this was excessive.

The Magistrate: I am afraid I have to convict. Fined \$30.

COAL DISPUTE

Sydney, Yesterday.
A conference of lodged delegates at Newcastle, N.S.W., has decided to recommend all sections of the mining industry to extend the coal dispute beyond the borders of New South Wales.—Reuter.

PIRACY VICTIMS

Five of the wounded Chinese have been discharged from the Government Civil Hospital. They have been handed over to the Police for investigation.

KNOCKED DOWN BY BUS

FATALITY REPORTED IN KOWLOON

UNFORTUNATE PEDESTRIAN

A fatal motor bus accident occurred in Prince Edward Road on Wednesday evening.

It appears that the bus, a Kowloon Bus Co. vehicle, was travelling towards Kowloon City. When nearing one of the stopping places the conductor pulled the bell, and accordingly the vehicle was brought to a stop. Prior to the bus stopping, the driver noticed two Chinese pedestrians, and he sounded his horn. Unfortunately, one of the men got such a fright at this sudden hoot that he jumped directly in front of the bus. The driver promptly applied the foot brakes and swerved. The left wheel, however, went over the man's foot and rendered him unconscious. He was sent to the Kowloon Hospital, but never regained consciousness.

Temperature, 10 a.m., to-day 69
Temperature, 4 p.m., yesterday 71

Humidity, 10 a.m., to-day 96
Humidity, 4 p.m., yesterday 82

TALKIE FIRE SEQUEL

Managers Charged With Manslaughter

New York, Yesterday.
J. O. Flynn and H. F. Lalley, Vice-President and Manager respectively of the Pathe Film Company, have been arraigned on a charge of manslaughter for culpable negligence in connection with the cinema fire.—Reuter's American Service.

[Five men and four women were incinerated and 20 people severely injured in a fire which destroyed the Pathe Film Studio in Upper Manhattan while making a talkie.] Released on Bail.

New York, Later.
Flynn and Lalley have been released on bail.—Reuter's American Service.

4 MEN, 4 REVOLVERS, 4 YEARS

SEQUEL TO DARING ARMED ROBBERY

TWO MAGISTRATES ON BENCH

The four Chinese arrested in West Point in connection with the daring armed robbery at 10 p.m., on Dec. 5 on the second floor of 102, Wellington Street, occupied by Cho Shan, a pork dealer of the Central Market, received well merited sentences when they appeared at the Central Magistracy before Mr. E. W. Hamilton and Major C. Willson.

The Police stated that the money and jewellery, worth together at \$393, which was stolen from the pork dealer's premises have been recovered, but in view of the fact that the victim was unable to identify any of the robbers, the Police withdrew the charge of robbery against all four men.

A charge of unlawful possession of four revolvers was substituted against the accused. They were convicted by the Magistrates on this charge and sentenced to four years' hard labour each.

The arms were discovered by the Police at the time of the accused's arrest which followed raids on two houses in Second and Third Streets, West Point.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Philip Snowden and The Budget

London, Yesterday.
Questioned in the House of Commons with regard to his intentions with the silk and artificial silk duties, Mr. Philip Snowden said that he was unable to anticipate a budget decision, but in view of the possible bearing of any feeling of uncertainty on the problem of unemployment, he was considering a number of suggestions applicable to different trades, in regard to the procedure adoptable in the event of a repeal of the duties affecting them in the next budget, in order to mitigate any anxiety existing in those trades, and to enable business to be carried on without interruption. He hoped to make a statement on the matter before Christmas.—Reuter.



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At 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.20.

A DRAMA OF THE FROZEN NORTH



AT THE **STAR** TO-DAY AT 5.30 & 9.20.
TO-MORROW AT 2.30, 5.30 & 9.20.

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A PLOT THAT WILL KEEP YOU ON THE EDGE OF EXCITEMENT.
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At 2.30 & 7.15 Interpreter
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HOW YULETIDE WEATHER IS ENJOYED IN OTHER LANDS



A snow clad ship returning to a Scottish port so that the crew can spend Christmas ashore.



Senorita Lili de Alvarez, the Spanish tennis lady, vigorously ski-ing at St. Moritz.



An acrobatic display at the winter sports at Murren, Bernese Oberland, with a youngster aloft.



Two aristocratic ladies waltzing, on skates, to gramophone music in Wimbledon Park, London.

**WELCOME
ALWAYS**

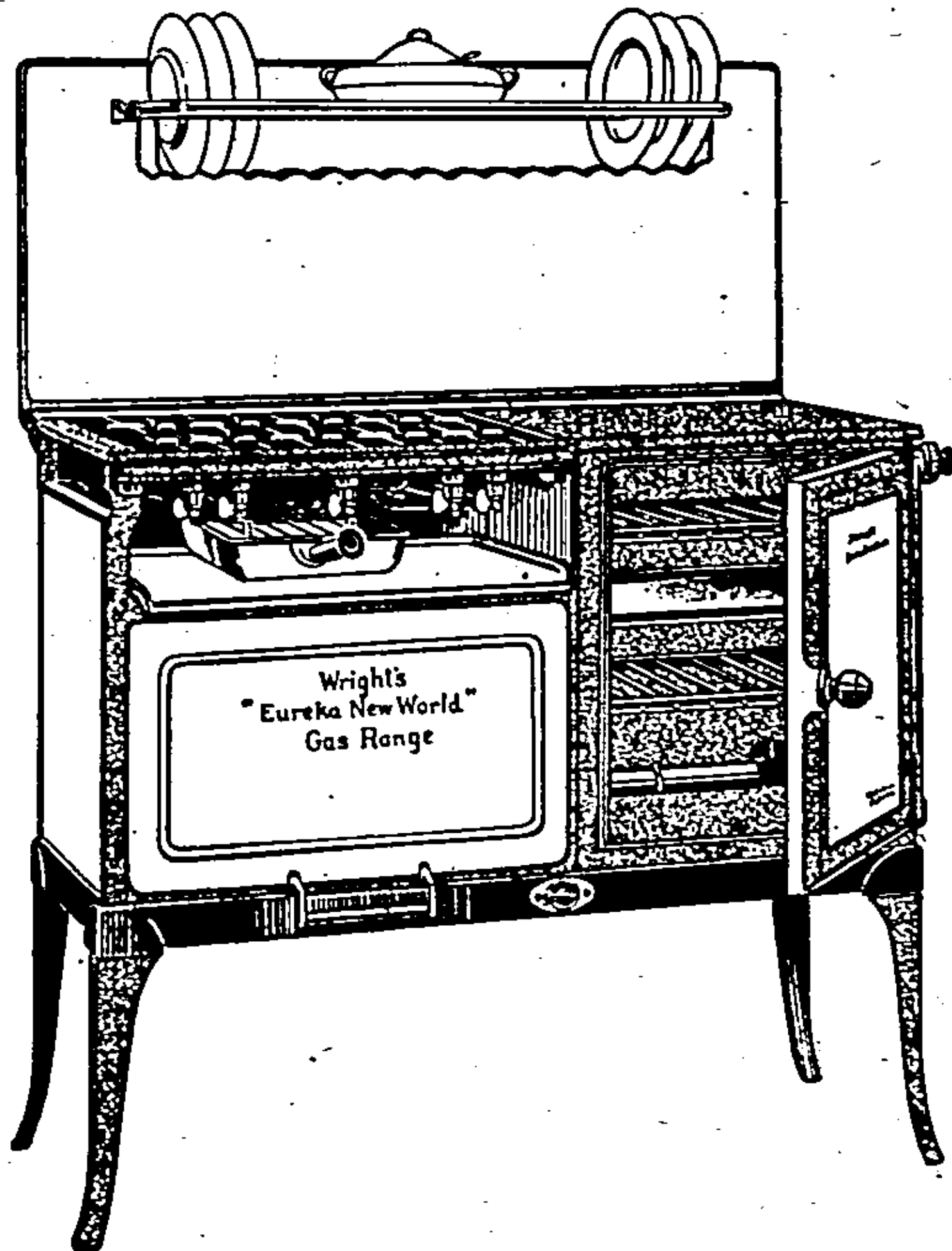


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CIGARETTES**

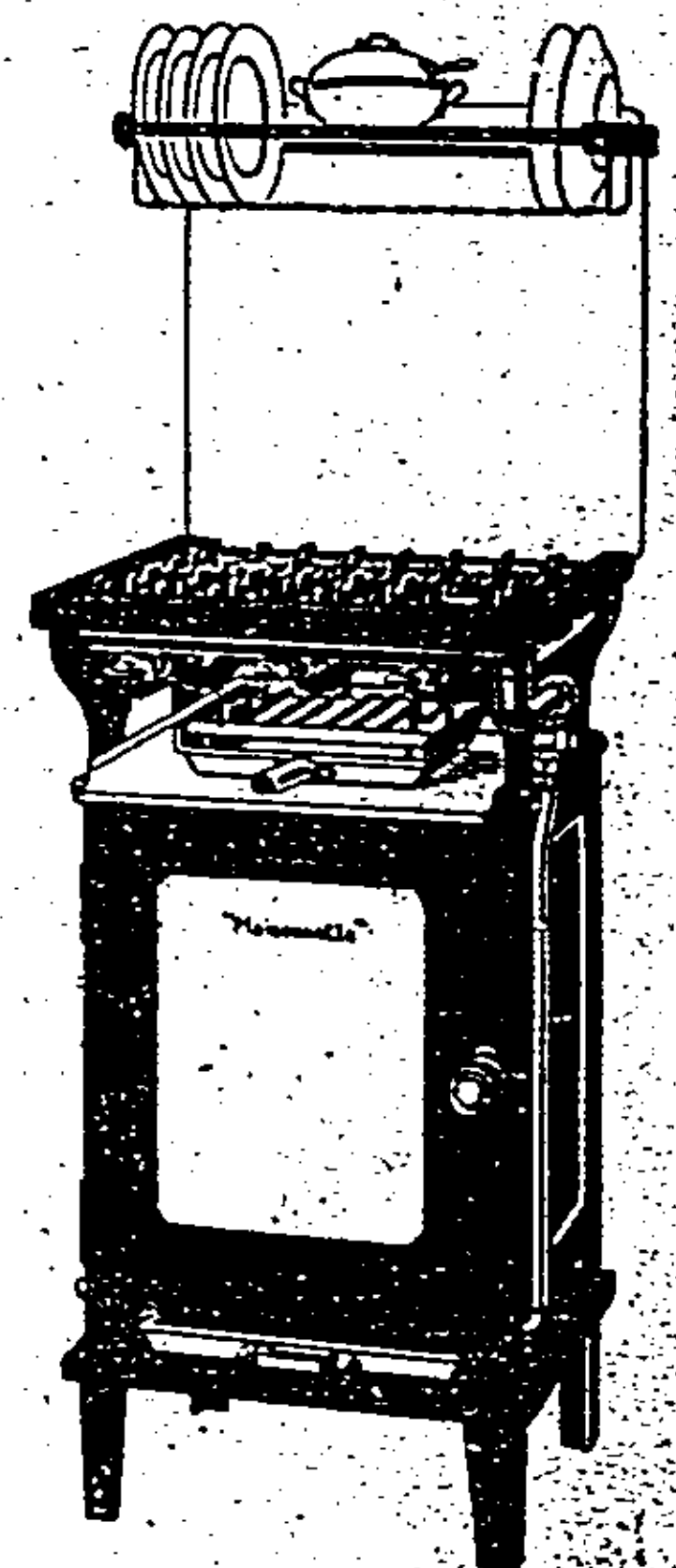
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"WHISTLING WILLY'S" CHRISTMAS TRIUMPH



IT was Christmas Eve, and the little village of Cedborough lay sleeping.

Across the long straggling High Street was stretched a canvas banner on which was painted the legend, "Roker's Christmas Circus — Three Days Only." A solitary figure somewhat short in stature could be seen ascending the hill. His footsteps crunched through the snow, which sparkled in the light of the full moon hanging in a starry sky. As he walked the man whistled, and it was because of the remarkable nature of his whistle that he bore the name of "Whistling Willy."

There was a strange harmonious lilt in his notes, and he had the gift of creating in the minds of his hearers a swift response to his music. To hear him whistle made people want to be happy, and especially wonderful was his effect on children. As soon as he appeared in the ring—for it must be mentioned that he was one of the "star" turns of Roker's Circus—a great shout would be raised by the entire audience, especially the juvenile element; and as soon as comparative calm was restored the merry notes from his lips would set everyone rocking with merriment; for added to his gift for whistling was an instinctive aptitude for clowning.

A Lonely Life

Outside the Circus he had but few friends. Indeed, he lived a lonely life, and this night as he plodded along through the snow he was in a brooding mood. Here and there a light burned in an upper window, and as he came slowly by one house the curtain was lifted and the occupant peered out to see who was the passer-by who whistled at that late hour.

On this night of all nights in the year he yearned more than ever for some place where he would receive a welcome after his day's labours were ended. Lodgings are but a poor substitute for one's own home, and the prospect of a lonely Christmas did not add gaiety to his heart.

"Whistling Willy" was by no means an old man. As a boy he received quite a fair education, and spent some years in a Liverpool shipping office, until the drums of war throbbed out their call. He answered it, and his natural gift for entertaining helped to amuse his comrades in billets overseas. Here he met one day Henry B. Roker, an American showman who had had some considerable experience of that business in his own land, and contemplated a start in England when peace came. He persuaded "Willy" to join him, and so for some five years Roker's Circus had wandered up and down the land. It was not, perhaps, as well known as one or two other enterprises of a similar nature, but there was a distinctiveness about Roker's which always attained a sufficient degree of success to ensure a return visit being arranged.

Something Of A Celebrity

Roker's Circus had become an event which would be looked forward to with keen delight in numerous homes in a score of counties, so it naturally follows that "Whistling Willy" had a not unimportant reputation, and in a small way he counted as something of a celebrity.

It was the first time Roker's Circus had visited Cedborough for Christmas, and on this occasion they had opened on Christmas eve in a large field at the more populous end of the village. Willy had opposed the start on Christmas Eve.

"See here, Mr. Roker," he had said. "I can't help feeling that on Christmas Eve folk will be wanting to finish their shopping, and be too busy in completing all their Christmas plans to want to come to the Circus. You won't get a good house if you do open. That's my honest opinion, sir."

Roker, fortified by years of experience in the showman's business, and not a little piqued at the clown's suggestion, retorted:

"Young man, when I ask you for your advice, that will be the right and proper time for you to give it. I think you would be better employed in thinking out new 'business' in your turn. I've been meaning to tell you about it before. You're getting stable, Williams, and you'll have to freshen up a lot if you want to keep in my 'outfit.' Your contract with me expires at the end of the year, and I want you to realise that you have got to 'get some brighter stuff across' if you want it renewed. I'll decide at Christmas!"

The big American put his cigar back into his mouth, and as "Willy" moved away he smiled grimly and said to himself:

"Nothing like keeping fellows on tenterhooks! Makes 'em keener if they can't feel their job is secure."

A Mighty Despair.

But Willy went away with a mighty despair in his heart. He had grown to love the circus, with all its excitement, and hardly cared to contemplate whatever he should do were he suddenly thrown out into the world. Never more could he go back to the high stool of a clerk after tasting the freedom which a travelling circus brings. Yet Roker's words brought a terrible chill to his spine, for though he intuitively felt that he had been giving complete satisfaction, it hurt him now to learn otherwise. Although the plaudits of the crowd pleased, yet, after all, it was Roker who paid him, and unless he satisfied his employer he could not continue.

Thus it was that he felt depressed that Christmas Eve in Cedborough. The show had duly opened that night, and, as "Whistling Willy" had ventured to predict, the attendance at the first evening performance had been very meagre. For one thing, the weather had been against them. A blizzard had raged all day, and, once having gained the comfort of their homes, few people cared to sally forth again, especially to visit the Circus. It was to be in the village for two more nights, and they felt they had other opportunities of going.

The Chosen Scapegoat

Roker, who was a man who hated to find his own judgment at fault, was not manly enough to own it, but hastened to find someone on whose shoulders to throw the blame. The rest of the company were not surprised when they learned that the chosen scapegoat was their clown. Roker began by finding fault with his antics in the ring. He stormed, declaring that they didn't cause a second's amusement to a single member of the

audience, and in a burst of temper told him if he didn't find better "stuff" over the Christmas holiday he could consider himself sacked on the spot.

The clown restrained his desire to answer his employer back and, returning to the ring, did his best to improve his performance; but it was a curiously unresponsive audience that night, for even the final acrobatic dives and leaps in mid-air failed to thrill it. After the show Willy said "Good night" to his colleagues, and set off up the hill to his lodgings, puzzling his brain to know how to better his part. He began automatically to whistle as he walked, hoping to gain inspiration, but none came, and instead his mood was one of great sadness that Christmas Eve.

Whistling A Carol

Christmas morning dawned bright, sunny, and very cold. Snow lay everywhere, presenting a very pretty "old-fashioned Christmassy look," and Willy descended to breakfast whistling a carol.

He took his meals with his landlady's family, and listened to the prattle of the two little boys discussing the gifts which Santa Claus had brought them. They were not aware that their lodger had contributed largely to the toys which had been discovered in their stockings, and to their delight he displayed an eagerness to know how lucky they had been.

"Look, Mr. Williams!" cried the elder lad. "Father Christmas has sent us all tickets for the Circus to-morrow! Shall we be able to see you?"

The clown was dreading the morrow, but he cloaked his anxiety, and replied in a cheery voice:

"Yes, rather! I'll think of something specially funny to make you all laugh!"

A Grim Jest

It was a grim jest, for he knew that if he did not succeed in carrying out his promise his stay in Cedborough would be even shorter than had been arranged.

His promise satisfied the two children, who had never before seen a real Christmas circus, and later in the day, when by special invitation the clown stayed to Christmas dinner and the party which followed, he repaid the good-hearted hospitality by his happy jokes and gay fun-making.

But being funny at a Christmas party is not quite the same thing as trying to do so in the circus ring on Boxing Day afternoon before a large and expectant audience and a highly critical employer.

When Willy arrived at the Circus on Boxing Day after an early lunch (he had not been near the place since Christmas Eve), he found that a small boy had paid no fewer than four visits to the tent with the object of seeing him.

"He's got an important message for you, he says," explained the man who took charge of the box office; "but I couldn't remember where you said you were lodging, so I couldn't send him to you."

Willy thanked him, and a couple of minutes later the boy arrived and was conducted to the clown, who had begun to dress for the performance.

(Continued on Page 22.)

CHOP SUEY

SERVED IN HONG KONG



For Hong Kong sassiety where must we seek?

Nineteen out of twenty will answer. "The Peak."

The lower the level the commoner the clique, That's as plain as your nose, or the rouge on your cheek.

Number One resides Top Side the rest by the creek:

Which is largely the reason of Mrs. Two's pique,

As you'll see for yourself any day of the week.

But isn't a snob just a sort of a freak?

[Man, man there! Your rhymes are beginning to creak. Ed.]

In childhood's days who o'er me hung, And weird celestial ballads sung, And regularly Momma "stung"?

My Amah.

Who when the days were moist and hot Would leave me in some sunny spot, And very often me forgot?

My Amah.

Who'd see her "pang yaus" frequently, Discuss her mas'er and miss-ee, And seldom ever think of me?

My Amah.

At 8 p.m. when Ma and Pa Took chow with them and Sis, Both John and May in distant seats Were—far—apart—like—this.

At 10 Papa and Ma withdrew: And then ye Gods! What bliss!

The lovers sat till nearly two ABOUTASCLOSEASTHIS.

There was a young man of Hong Kong, Who toddled along with the throng To the Club or the Lounge Beer or baccy to scrounge From the pals who had not known him long.

But his victims his presence soon quit When they saw that he shied at a chit: And in wrath handed out To the miserly lout What is commonly called the cold mit.

Then the lizard remarked: "This is wrong. I've a name both resounding and long." So he stuck in a hyphen And soon got a wife in The circles of Hong Kong's Bon Ton.

I NEW ZEALAND curiosity would bring you here.

Are you HUNGARY?

Yes SIAM. This weather MEXICOve peckish.

JAMAICA a good meal here?

Yes! They FIJI well. YUKON have anything.

CAN ADA get US A meal?

Wait and ALASKA.

JAVA a good lunch yesterday?

BALI good. I had to have SAMOA.

What about some TURKEY?

No it's too GREECEy and the waiters don't SERVIA well.

Then it's SCILLY to ROUMANIA.

Let's RUSSIAway. It's getting CHILL.

You CONGO. I'll not INDIA.

Oh this is SPAINful. Goodbye.

CEYLONg.

They dined all alone at 8-8, And of oysters they 8 quite a sp8: Then he asked his dear K8 If she'd tell him his F8, As they 8 t8—a—t8 at 8.8.

Our towns are a nightmare of noise.

Noise! Noise! Noise!

Saxophonous, cacophonous, gramophonous.

Battering, clattering, shattering;

Noise of boys, skirts of girls,

Hooters, scooters, rooters,

Motors, voters, rotors,

Throngs, gongs, bells, yells

Tattoos, cockatoos, hullabaloes,

Jazz and loud-speakers, solitude breakers.

All hail the great God NOISE!

Ship me somewhere from such sewage,

From this noisy garbage heap,

From the horror of the new age,

So that I might get a sleep.

Where the Bari stops his Toning,

And the Battle fails to Dore,

Where the Gramo ceases Phoning,

And the Cocka Toos no more.

There was a young curate of Salisbury

Whose manners were so halisbury—scalisbury.

He walked about Hampshire

Without any pampshire

Till the Bishop compelled him to walisbury.

There was an old roue of Sidney

Who soaked till he punstured a kidney.

But so great was his thirst

That he drank till he burst

And died. But he asked for it. Did'n'e?

— "Jok."

THE LORE OF CHRISTMAS

Legends, Superstitions, Observances

To, now is come our joyful'st feast!

Let every man be jolly.

Each room with yvie leaves is drest,

And every post with holly.

Now all our neighbours' chimneys smoke,

And Christmas blocks are burning;

Their ovens they with bak't meats choke

And all their spits are turning.

Without the door let sorrow lie,

And if, for cold, it hap to die,

Wee'll bury't in a Christmas pye,

And evermore be merry."

A veil of mysticism has always shrouded Christmas. Its origin, doubtless, is attributable to the legend of the Magi, and for that we must look to the simple Scripture story as related by St. Matthew.

In far-distant days it was believed that all Nature, in a variety of ways, testified to a recognition of the event in the birth of Christ—commemorated in the celebration of Christmas. The winds and the seas, trees and plants, and all things animate, afforded evidence of knowledge of the approach of the anniversary and became imbued with

the spirit of adoration, joy, and peace. According to tradition, at the moment the Saviour was born peace—a profound silence—prevailed throughout the world. Birds stopped in their flight, cattle ceased to feed, men ceased to toil and were suddenly overcome by awe, whilst the stars glittered with added lustre. In this tradition originated the Middle Ages superstitions attaching to the miraculous phenomena supposed to recur each Christmastide.

The Chrysanthemum

One of the oldest of the superstitions is that the chrysanthemum was born at the same time as the Babe of Bethlehem, and that it was instrumental in guiding the wise men of the East to the place of the Nativity. There was nothing to guide the Magi, no movement, no excitement to furnish a clue, but, suddenly, at a sign from King Melchior, the caravan stopped. "It is the place," cried Melchior. "Look! Here is a flower rayed like the star which has guided us here, and which, even now, is above our heads." As Melchior stopped and picked the white chrysanthemum flower the stable door opened of its own accord and the pilgrims entered. Melchior placed the chrysanthemum he had picked in the tiny hand of the new-born babe, Christ, the Saviour, and all bent before the shining Presence, bearing as sceptre the winter flower, white likeness of the guiding star.

It is upon such traditions as this that Christmas has descended to us in these matter-of-fact days, over nineteen centuries following the birth of Him after whom the greatest festival of the Christian year is named.

The Children's Patron Saint

It is to a legend that we owe the most commonly practised of Christmastide customs, that of present-giving; and the most popular of Christmas figures—Santa Claus, the mysterious being who flies o'er land and sea, descends chimneys, and distributes toys to good little boys and girls. "Santa Claus" is really a corruption of "St. Nicholas," patron saint of the children. There was, so runs the traditional story, a poor nobleman who had three daughters. So poor was he that he could not provide dowry for the girls. He therefore planned to kill them. Warned in a vision of the projected tragedy, St. Nicholas, at night, visited the nobleman's castle and dropped a fat purse of gold down the kitchen chimney. Thus was mysteriously provided a dowry for the eldest daughter. In like manner, on successive nights, St. Nicholas dowered the nobleman's two other girls. In olden times purses possessed something of the shape of the stocking as we know it to-day. Hence the old and still prevailing practice of excited children hanging up

(Continued on Page 24.)

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"WHISTLING WILLY'S" CHRISTMAS TRIUMPH

(Continued from Page 20.)

"Well, my lad, what's your business?" he inquired, with a twinkle in his eye.

"Are you Mr. Williams himself?" demanded the boy importantly.

"I am, indeed," replied "Whistling Willy."

"Then you've got to come straight back with me to your wife!"

"To where?" asked Willy, as if in a dream.

"To your wife! She says you've got to come!" answered the boy. "I'll show you the way!"

The Clown Quite Dazed

He probably expected the clown to get up instantly and follow him; but, instead, the man sat perfectly still as if quite dazed.

The boy's words had come as a great surprise, and little could the boy guess the tragic memories which this message had aroused.

It was an old story. During the hectic war days Willy had married a girl who had admired his uniform; but when peace came, and Willy announced his intention of adopting the clowning profession, his wife definitely and angrily declared that nothing on earth would induce her to live with him. That night, when the clown returned to their home, he found his wife had packed up her belongings and had vanished. For days and weeks he waited and sought for news, but not the slightest trace did he ever discover. He had spared neither money nor effort in his search, for he had loved her; but all was in vain. She had dropped clean out of his life, and he was left with just the memories of the brief honeymoon snatched from seven days' Army leave.

Small wonder, then, that on hearing the boy's message he was overcome with surprise. Five years is a long time, and though no other woman had come into his life, yet he could hardly be expected to work up any great enthusiasm for this woman who had promised to "love, honour and obey," and had disappeared all those years ago.

Final Blow To Hopes

Besides, he was not sure that he wanted to see her now. He had his own worries and anxieties this particular afternoon, and this final blow was enough to destroy any hopes he may have cherished of being able to give such a performance as would satisfy Roker.

Quickly he came to his decision.

"I can't come now!" he told the boy, who, hearing the message he was to deliver, hesitated.

"What are you waiting for?" demanded Willy.

"For you," replied the boy briefly. "I daren't go back without you!"

"Tell her if she wants to see me she will have to come here!" answered the man, going on with his dressing. He had to be the first to enter the ring, and on this afternoon he could not afford to be late.

The boy, seeing determination in the man's attitude, slipped noiselessly out of the tent, and ten minutes later a great shout went up:

"It's 'Whistling Willy'!"

The performance was timed to begin at two o'clock sharp, and all the seats were filled as Willy took the ring; and, being anxious to be amused, it was not difficult for the clown to hold their interest until the time for the other events arrived. Roker, keenly critical, smoking a big cigar, stood at a vantage point, surveying, and his spirits rose as he saw the packed tiers and heard their laughter. It augured well for the performances to follow,

and he was inclined to be mildly tolerant of the clown's efforts.

Willy's improved!" he commented to Blordin, the high-wire equilibrist, just about to thrill the onlookers.

Audience Sat Spell-bound

Blordin nodded, and went on with preparations for his performance, and in a few minutes he was balancing himself on a steel wire fifty feet above the ring, while the audience sat spell-bound, watching with anxious eyes the little dark-haired man passing with steady movements over their heads. They realised that the slightest false move on his part would bring him crashing to the ground, perhaps never to move again. In pent-up excitement they gazed, while the man, as if all unconscious of the hundreds of eyes fixed on him, began a lively step-dance to the accompaniment of the orchestra. He kept this up for fully a minute, and then as



the music stopped he regained perfect equilibrium. Once more he stood still for a few seconds, and then began a series of wonderful hair-raising exploits. This Boxing Day audience at Cedborough had never seen the like, and they gasped as a wild whoop from Blordin broke the great silence and he gave a mighty leap and landed safely on his feet on the ground to conclude.

Instantly the orchestra blared out, and "Whistling Willy" capered into the ring. It was his part to relieve the tension which Blordin's thrilling acts had created, and though some still gazed at the wire suspended above them, the majority watched Willy's antics with keen enjoyment, as a perfect contrast to the preceding five minutes' breathless excitement.

Something Surprising

Suddenly something surprising occurred. Willy was standing on his head in the ring at the opposite end to the entrance, and did not see, as most of the audience did, a

DAYS OF CHARLES II.

There was something very fascinating in the old-fashioned Christmas which prevailed in England from the days of Charles II to the reign of Victoria. Everyone made it his duty to see that it should be a season of peace upon Earth and goodwill towards men and carried it out with boisterous jollity and an exuberance of natural spirits, of which we see too little to-day. Everyone was bent on enjoying himself to the utmost of his capacity and in adding to the enjoyment of others. It was a great day for the children and the poor were not forgotten. There was magic in the very name of Christmas. It exorcised discord and jealousy, old quarrels were forgotten, hatchets were buried and for one day in the year humanity had a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.

GREATEST FESTIVAL

Christmas is the greatest festival of the Christian year. It is so joyful a solemnity that when it falls on a Friday, that day of the week, in all other circumstances a fast, is transformed into a feast.

woman enter and dash across the tan. Abruptly Willy's thoughts were disturbed as he was lifted by his feet bodily from the ground and carried across the ring by the woman. She was tall, muscular, and rather good-looking, and seemed to find her burden not particularly heavy, for, as she walked with ease, she spoke to him. In the noise and laughter which was the accompaniment of her progress across the tan, no one save Willy could catch her words, but to his ears they came with startling clarity.

"I've got you at last, my beauty, then!" she shrieked. "I've been trying to trace you for years, and had no luck until now. I heard you whistle on Christmas Eve as you walked past my house at midnight. You woke me up, in fact. I was dreaming about you, and I sent up to the Circus for you to come to join me at Christmas dinner yesterday. And to-day you told my messenger that if I wanted you I was to come for you. Well, I've come for you, and when I get you outside I want a good talk with you!"

It is not easy to speak when one is suspended from the feet, so it is not surprising that Willy kept silence. Meanwhile the audience, not realising the actual meaning of the woman's entrance, shrieked with laughter, which gradually increasing, reached its crescendo at the moment when she passed with Willy from the ring and the swing doors closed the view. Then she allowed Willy to stand on his feet, and he, swiftly observing the presence of interested members of the company, said to her:

"Come to my tent. We can talk there."

First Talk For Five Years

Strangely enough, she obeyed, following him, and in a few moments they began the first long conversation they had had for five years. In its course many of the misunderstandings which had kept them apart for so long were dispersed, and presently Willy, forgetful of his engagement to entertain his employer's patrons, found himself holding his wife fondly in his arms while he was clasped tightly in hers.

He came back to earth when the door of the tent was thrust open and the big form of Henry B. Roker was framed in the doorway.

"See here!" he said crisply. "Just what's the game, young man?"

Quickly Willy disengaged himself from his wife's arms, and she turned with an engaging smile to the showman and said mincingly.

"How do you do, Mr. Roker? Have you got a place for me in your Circus?"

Cutest Bit Of Novelty

Henry B. Roker smiled broadly. "Well, I guess I have," he answered. "Your little business just now with 'Whistling Willy' was about the cutest bit of novelty I've seen introduced for a verra long time. I told him he had to freshen up his turn; but I didn't think he'd bring another name on the payroll to do it. Still, it's worth it, and you can consider yourself engaged at his old salary, while he gets a twenty per cent. increase. Will you take it?"

Forgetful of all her old-time objections to circus life, and conscious only that by accepting she could be with the man she loved and had wanted for years, she took Roker's outstretched hand and thanked him.

Dazed and scarcely comprehending, the clown looked from his wife to his employer, and then, as a great shout arose from the ring, the light of understanding dawned in his eyes.

"They want you," said Roker, nodding towards the ring, and his eyes sparkled.

Leading his wife by the hand, Willy entered the ring, and rapturous applause greeted him as he pointed to her and shouted cheerily: "My new partner!"

It was the hour of his triumph!

MY FUNNIEST YULETIDE EXPERIENCE



By Popular Actors And Actresses

By THORNTON HALL



"FUNNY Christmas experiences?" said Mr. George Graves, the well-known comedian, to the writer. "Well, I've had a good many, and it's not easy to pick and choose among them. But—well, yes, I think this was about the funniest of them all. At least, it amused me most at the time—and since."

"One night in Christmas week I was playing a female part in a Liverpool pantomime, and was enjoying a few moments' rest at the back of the stage when I was approached by a woman anxious to sell certain ladies' garments. 'No, thank you,' I answered politely, with my sweetest smile, as I proceeded to strike a match and light a cigar. The woman gazed at me with open mouth, and then exclaimed: 'Well, I never! It fair turns me over, miss, to see you puffing a cigar!' A moment later her confusion was complete, when a friend came up with the words: 'I say, George, coming to the club after the show?' Flinging up her arms, she uttered a cry of dismay and fled."

"The First Tree"

No less amusing was an experience of Miss Lil Hawthorne when she was playing Jack, the Giant-killer, one Christmas week. "As Jack of the stout arm," she says, "I had to force my way through a forest with sturdy blows from my cudgel at the obstructive trees. One evening a super accosted me timidly and begged to be allowed to speak to me. 'Who are you?' I asked. 'Well, miss,' was the answer, 'I'm the first tree to-night, and I 'ope you won't 'it quite so 'ard. The other man resigned because, 'e says, you 'alf killed 'im last night. So they've put me in 'is place—and I can't resign because I've 'got a wife and family.' Needless to say," adds Miss Hawthorne, "like the woodman, I 'spared the tree' for the sake of his wife and family; and his gratitude was quite pathetic."

Miss Ellaline Terriss tells the following story of her funniest Christmas experience; though, as she says, the "fun" was not very obvious at the time.

"It was during the run of 'His Excellency' at the Lyric Theatre. By mistake I was shut in at the theatre, and found myself wandering alone down on to the stage with only the Cinderella cat for company, and a huge statue of Rutland Barrington."

Got Off Lightly

"Mr. Seymour Hicks, my husband, came to fetch me; and for an hour he, with the aid of a policeman, tried to get me out, but in vain. A crowd collected, but, alas! the one person wanted—the fireman—could not be found to release me. At last Mr. Hicks climbed on to a great glass portico and managed to get me out. He was naturally very indignant with the fireman for shutting me up, but in consideration of the Christmas season he got off very lightly."

Among Yuletide memories Dame Ellen Terry recalled most vividly one Christmas Day spent at Pittsburg, which her companion, Henry Irving, described as "Hell with the lid off." Irving had arranged a dinner-party at his hotel, to which he in-

vited Mark Twain and the leading members of his company.

"And oh!" said Ellen Terry, "what a funny dinner it was! We waited an hour before the soup made its appearance—burnt hare-soup, the smell of which was almost enough to knock me down! Luckily, Irving had brought his wine with him, and with champagne and stories we had quite a merry time in spite of the awful courses, until my English pudding arrived, the piece de resistance of our feast. 'Very strange!' said Sir Henry, as he sampled the delicacy. 'Very strange! But I think this must be camphor pudding!' And so it was! This was the last straw! My housekeeper had packed the pudding in a trunk with some furs, and enough camphor to flavour a whole army's rations!"

Huntley Wright

Mr. Huntley Wright, the popular comedian, considers a Christmas he spent in Yorkshire some years ago the funniest in his experience, and for this reason:—

"I had finished a particularly trying week at a small theatre," he writes, "and had tramped back to my lodgings very weary and down in the mouth. However, I awoke the following morning (Christmas Day) with a determination to banish dull care and have a really jolly Yorkshire Christmas. In this buoyant spirit I rang for my breakfast, and when my landlady appeared with a tray, she looked, I was sorry to see, rather dismal. I greeted her with a cheery: 'Merry Christmas!' 'Thank you, sir! Same to you!' she answered in a funereal voice."

"Now, Mrs. —," I said, with a beaming, goodwill-to-all-men face, "I want to forget all my worries in a good Christmas dinner, which I know you'll provide. Roast beef, Christmas pudding, mince pies, and all that kind of thing, you know, eh?"

"Mrs. — looked sorrowfully at me, wiped an invisible tear from her right eye, and faltered: 'Well, Mr. Wright, I'd be much obliged if you could get your dinner out to-day. You see, my poor husband, he died at Christmas, and I always like to spend the day in the cemetery!'"

"Of course, I dined out!"

Fell Into The Pit

Mr. Harry Randall, although he has had many amusing experiences of his own, gives the palm to the following story, in which he played only the role of looker-on. "One night," he says, "while I was playing in a pantomime, a man in the gallery, who was rather deaf, leaned so far forward in his anxiety to hear that he fell headlong into the pit and was carried to the hospital. I quite thought he must be dead; but, as a matter of fact, he was only bruised and a little shaken. And the very next day he presented himself at the pay-box and asked to be passed in free on the ground that he had paid on the previous night and hadn't seen the show!"

To Miss Marie Blanche the mistletoe has associations not altogether agreeable. "I shall never forget one Boxing night," she says. "I was resting during the interval of a pantomime when our leading comedian introduced me to a man who had the

audacity to ask me for a kiss and produced a sprig of mistletoe to sanction it. When I refused indignantly and asked him to leave me, he was very much out, and actually told me he did not think I would refuse the request of a visitor with supernatural powers!"

"While he was thus eulogising his remarkable abilities concerning handcuff tricks and magic the comedian re-entered and, overhearing and obtaining my explanation, said:

A Sporting Offer

"I've a great idea, Miss Blanche. As it's Christmas time, and our friend here has mistletoe and handcuffs, why not make a sporting offer? Promise him a kiss if he lets us into the secret of his handcuff trick?"

"I agreed, so the gentleman handcuffed the right hands of both myself and the comedian, and we were chained securely together. All that was now necessary was for the magician to go outside into the street, count five, and on the fifth count the handcuffs would fall off!"

"But the handcuffs did not fall off! It seems that the fickle fellow had met a pretty girl in the corridor who was an understudy, and in one of his moments of forgetfulness he went off with her to a party at her people's. We counted five till we were tired. We were called to go on to resume our performance, but how could we?"

Story Of A Black Cat

Miss Dorothy Ward tells an amusing story of Christmas and a black cat. "When I first met Shaun Glenville," she says, "we were both playing modest parts in a London variety hall one Christmas, and he was standing on the side of the stage made up as a comedian. I came along daintily attired for a nice love song. He saw me, and must have been struck—in both senses! He fell in love with me, and then—over backwards! For, stopping back for me to pass, he trod on that 'lucky' black stage cat."

"There was a great commotion which upset the show for the time. The cat howled and swore. I rubbed the poor man's head. He told me to keep on rubbing for ever, as he'd often wanted to meet and speak to me, and he had really cared for me! Not very long after he asked me if I'd marry him. I said, 'No!'"

"The following Christmas we met again. He suggested we should hire a car and go for a joy-ride."

"We passed such a romantic little country church, with ivy covering the walls, and he said that would just suit nicely for getting married in. Then the car broke down—evidently Cupid's fault, for he was day-dreaming. When we'd repaired the car he enquired: 'Will you marry me?' And, wishing not to appear too anxious, I said: 'No, no.'"

"That's good!" he laughed. "Two No's! Two negatives make an affirmative—and you must mean 'Yes.'"

"Not long after we were married in that romantic little church, and from that day to this have been really happy—although we're both stage stars!"



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HONG KONG.

LOCAL SUBSTITUTES FOR HOLLY



CHRISTMAS, among the British and other peoples of the West, is celebrated by decorations in the house. Two plants beyond all others are used for these decorations—mistletoe and holly. The origin of this custom and the superstitions connected with the use of these plants is lost in mystery. The mistletoe, among the ancient classical peoples, gave the right of entrance to the next world and acted as a fertility charm; it also formed a sacred plant among the ancient Druids. Possibly the permission to kiss under the mistletoe may be a remnant of this fertility charm; or it may possibly be a survival of one of the ancient liberties of the Saturnalia. The use of holly seems to be as old as Father Christmas himself.

Well-known Peculiarities

Both these plants have certain well-known peculiarities. The mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is the only member of the *Loranthaceae* which grows in Great Britain. The plant is dioecious, i.e. the sexes are separate. Not only so, but it is also a parasite and retains its glaucous rather golden green colour when its host seems to be dead. Thus it was to the ancients "The Golden Bough," the key to the kingdom of Hades. No wonder that it has remained to throw its glamour round Christmas—for Christmas is really a pagan feast, the legend that Christ was born on this day being only a myth devised to give the cloak of ecclesiastical sanction to a well-established pagan festival.

The holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, is the only member of the genus *Ilex* found in Europe. It, too, strange to say is generally dioecious. Like the mistletoe it is an evergreen; and this alone in a country where there are so few evergreens would make it an object of attraction and interest. In addition to this the bright red drupes are medicinal and almost poisonous. Few plants are more attractive to children in the excitement of Christmas than the rich green leaves and

the bright red drupes of the holly.

Unfortunately the holy, *Ilex aquifolium*, does not grow in Hong Kong. Though South Eastern Asia is the land of the *Ilex* (we have no fewer than nine species of *Ilex* growing in the Colony) none of them answers exactly to the holly, or has to the European the wistful charm of the holly's prickly leaf. We naturally ask then, are there any local substitutes? and if so, what are they?

Red Drupes

At least three of the species of *Ilex* which grow in the Colony have red drupes but none of them seems to us as attractive as their European cousin *Ilex aquifolium*. *Ilex pubescens*, a common local shrub, has an abundance of red drupes, but the colour of the drupes is much darker than those of the holly, and the small pubescent leaves are very untidy-looking. In fact this is a poor decorative plant. One species of *Ilex* here has glorious scarlet drupes. It may possibly be *Ilex graciliflora*: if so, it is not very abundant. Much walking might have to be done to find it. It might be worth while to cultivate this plant for the Christmas consumption of Yule-loving Europeans. There are two or three other species of *Ilex* but none of them is very pretty; and the prettiest, *Ilex asprella*, has a black drupe.

Several species of *Ardisia* (*Myrsinaceae*) have gorgeous red berries and rather pretty leafage. *Ardisia crispa* and *Ardisia pauciflora* are perhaps the best of these. Unfortunately the umbel of berries grows underneath the leaves. This makes the use of the plant difficult for decorative purposes, as the berries are nearly always hidden. The leafage of *Ardisia primulaefolia* makes it unsuitable though it has beautiful berries.

Psychotria elliptica (*Rubiaceae*) is a very abundant shrub with red berries. But the plant even at its best is scraggy-looking and untidy. The berries are of a poor cheap type of red and fall off easily.

Oval-Shaped Red Berries

Rauwolfia chinensis (*Apocynaceae*) has pretty oval-shaped red berries which look as if they were twinned, but these, too, fall off easily and have little resemblance to the holly berry.

Wikstroemia indica (*Thymeliaceae*) has also pretty red berries, but these come too early for Christmas and are extremely deciduous.

Probably better than any of these are a couple of species of *Smilax* (*Liliaceae*). *Smilax China* has beautiful umbels of red berries of a very rich hue. It has the advantage, too, of being a graceful climber. It has just one disadvantage—it is very liberally supplied with rather nasty hooked claws which tear a person's hands and clothes unmercifully.

Probably the best substitute of all is *Diplospora viridiflora* (*Rubiaceae*). The berries of this tree grow close to the stem much as they do in the holly. The tree may be distinguished from an *Ilex* by the consistently opposite leaves. It is fairly abundant in the hilly district of the Colony and I have seen it used more than once as a Christmas decoration.

No Snow Here!

Were it not for the difficulty in eradicating an old custom it might be better to drop the thought of home plants and take some new form of decorative greenery, easily obtainable and native to the district. After all, holly suggests snow and plum-pudding. But we haven't got the snow; and many of us have found that plum-pudding is better as a weapon of offence than as a life preserver. Perhaps in the future the joys and fun of Christmas in the Far East, for the European at all events, may weave themselves round a new group of fetishes, and leave the snow, the plum-pudding, the yule-log, the mistletoe and the holly for the Old Country.

— A. H. C.

THE LORE OF CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 16)

stockings to receive Santa Claus's good gifts down the chimney in the early hours of Christmas Day.

No Mistletoe Berries, No Kisses!

Another very old Christmastide custom is that of kissing under the mistletoe. Many a maiden's cheek is red By lips and laughter thither led; And fluttering bosoms come and go Under the Druid mistletoe.

Yes, the mistletoe was undoubtedly bequeathed to us by the ancient Druids, who deeply venerated the parasitic plant, for the reason that the mistletoe produces its berries in clusters of three on one stalk, and they had a remarkable reverence for the number three. It was a Druidical custom to greet one another with a kiss of peace in the mistletoe's shadow. This fact would

seem to have endowed the mistletoe with mystic qualities. The modern young-followers of the Druids are not influenced by the Druidical reverence for the mistletoe: they are satisfied to regard it as an excuse for kissing, and were the mistletoe puritanically tabooed Christmas to them would be shorn of much of its charm. What many young kissers of to-day do not understand is that the Christmastide kissing under the mistletoe must be organised properly if it is to be followed by good fortune. For instance, there must be only one kiss for each berry on the suspended branch, a berry being removed for each kiss exchanged. It follows that kissing must cease when all the berries are gone—when the branch is bare of them. If it doesn't, woe to the kissers!

"Heigh-Ho! The Holly!"

Closely identified with the Christmas festival, for the adornment of homes, is the holly, which poets have been won't to associate with jollity. Yet it was held to symbolise a crown of thorns in its prickly

leaves, drops of Passion blood in its red berries, and immortality in its ever-greenness. Hence the "Holy" as well as the "Holly" tree. If you would ensure a prosperous year for your family, say the superstitious, you must use in your Christmastide decorations three kinds of holly—the prickly, the non-prickly, and the variegated. In Derbyshire, if not in other parts of the country, they say that, according as the holly employed in the decorations is prickly or smooth, the master of the household during the year following will be the husband or the wife! There is another holly superstition—that it is unlucky to have holly in the house before Christmas Eve. It is at that time that, if you desire to know what the future has in store for you, you should consult the holly leaves. Place on the surface of water in a tub or a basin holly leaves on which are small bits of lighted candle. If the desire of your heart is to be fulfilled in love the leaves will swim; if you are to be unlucky in love they will sink.

A Christmas Festival

By MARJORIE HOWE DIXON

THE following outline is suggested for a Christmas programme, for a club, or for a school room. It is assumed that a piano will be available. Organ music would be of great assistance.

Prelude—Pastoral Symphony from the Messiah.

Chorus—O Little Town of Bethlehem.

Tableau—The Three Wise Men. (Joseph and Mary with the Christ Child. Three wise men presenting gifts).

Music—We three kings of Orient Are.

Quartet or Chorus—It came upon the Midnight Clear; O Come all ye faithful.

Tableau—The Yule Log. (Children dragging in the log).

Chorus—God Rest ye, Merry Gentlemen.

Postlude—Handel's Largo.

To this programme two or more recitations might be added. "Christmas Hymn," by Charles Wesley (which may be found in Volume 45 of the Harvard Classics, page 574), has a fine ringing air. It begins:—

Hark! how all the welkin rings,
Glory to the King of Kings!

May Use Tennyson's Poem
This might be inserted on the programme immediately following the first tableau. Another recitation that would end the programme in a fitting manner is Tennyson's "Ring out Wild Bells to the Wild Sky." The last verse makes an appropriate benediction.

If this were to be held in a church, the somewhat pagan character of the tableau, The Yule Log, might be an objection. This could be omitted and the Carol "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" be inserted. Readings from the Scriptures about the Birth of Christ could be given.

The tableau, "The Three Wise Men," could be preceded by a Scriptural reading, too. A tableau should present a definite picture to the mind. It will therefore be most effective if the costumes are full of colour and the lighting carefully studied. Coloured lights may help, but the scene must not be rendered too dim by too great a use of them.

Suggestion for Tableau

The composition of this tableau must be thought out. Of course, the background will suggest a stable, very crude in its construc-

tion. A manger can be forward, beside Mary. Mary in blue with the Christ Child on her knee, with Joseph in dark red standing behind her, might be on a raised platform, at the left centre of the stage. At the right would be the group of wise men. A gilded box lying on a cloth would lie at Mary's feet. The first wise man would kneel, the second would carry a box on his arm as if about to offer it, while the third would stand at the rear. Bright colours in the costumes will further assist in completing the picture.

An old print shows the ceremony of the Yule Log. The log is roped and is being dragged by four boys of ten years of age. Their costumes suggest Elizabethan times. They are headed toward a great fireplace (which with wood panelling would form the back drop). On the log sits a youngster of four or five who is being held there by his solicitous mother.

Court Fool Amuses Child

A court fool is playing back of her for the child's benefit. At the right a group of older folk are seated about a heavy wood table watching the fun. At the left a grand dame is seating, pointing her stick at the log. Over her bends a fine gentleman. Another man, and his lady, stand further back at the left. With the glow of the fire for a background this should present a picture of unusual colour and charm.

While this tableau was being prepared, Robert Herrick's lines could be recited:—

Kindle the Christmas brand, and then
Till sunne-set let it burne;
Which quencht, then lay it up again,
Till Christmas next returne.
Part must be kept wherewith to teend
The Christmas log next year;
And when 'tis safely kept, the Fiend
Can do no mischief there.

A SANTA CLAUS OF BLUE WATER

(Continued from Page 2.)

men were not working wholeheartedly. He did not say, what every other one was saying, that a growing lack of confidence in the captain was increasing hourly. Socially, Harold Loxley left nothing to be desired; professionally, he was failing to rise to the emergency.

Storm-Battered And Riotous

The Cromlech, storm-battered and riotous, hove in sight and signalled, "Do you wish to abandon?" Carrying the mails as she was, she could do no more than save life. Loxley looked at the sea, at the ice-shrouded ships, and shook his head. Presently, the Cromlech passed on, disappearing into the misted distance. The Hyacinth wallowed along in a wilderness of destruction.

Towards sunset, though no sun was visible, a rusty, wallowing old freighter loomed into view from the eastward. She doggedly pitched and wallowed, and white water streamed from every rivet of her. She looked a veritable outcast of the seas, but she was gallantly trudging on.

"Send a rocket up. Ask her to stand by," ordered Loxley. The tramp saw the signal and wallowed nearer, asking for particulars.

"I will take you in tow," she signalled back, after the bunting had told the news. Loxley spat and swore.

"As if that dirty old washtub could do anything with a ship like this!" he yelled.

But the washtub seemed determined to do something. It set about the task with a suggestion of grim purposefulness that to some minds was inspiring. It launched a boat, for one thing, and that boat contrived to cross the intervening stretch of furious sea without mishap, and carried a line, which it passed aboard the Hyacinth. Nothing could stop it. The boat returned to its parent ship, and the line it had carried was bent to a hawser, and the hawser passed from ship to ship. The tramp signalled:

"Hurry!—weather worsening!" The people of the Hyacinth hurried. They married the hawser to a bower-cable, working for the most part under water as the livid squalls rioted; and the tramp hove the cable across to form a link. She took aboard such heavy water as she worked, that it seemed a miracle she did not open and sink like a stone to the bottom of the sea; but as every fresh wave passed she swung herself clear and went on battling. But it was night—black, unbelievable night—by the time the connection was satisfactorily accomplished. And the storm was growing towards the infernal climax that midnight would bring.

The White Horror

"I will keep on towing," signalled the tramp. It plucked the bow of the Hyacinth into the wind and sea, and began to tow. Occasionally, it could be dimly seen in the white horror, a half-tide rock in effect, hard-set to keep afloat for its own part, but always indomitably towing. It would have been an easy matter to abandon the liner and fight a stouter fight unhampered, but no attempt was made to shirk responsibility. There were times when the storm seemed to gather up the puny battler and set it down bodily on the tow.

Battling At Dawn

Laggard dawn found her still battling. It revealed the horrors which the Hyacinth had escaped in hideous detail. The tramp was washed bare as a well-picked bone. There were gaunt gaps in her bulwarks, and her derricks were lashed over her hatches to avert the possibility of boarding seas breaking down her defences and swamping her. Loxley saw all this and, looking along the gaunt length of his own ship, knew that life had come to him from the pits of threatened death. He stared at the wallowing tramp, and saw bunting climb to her signal span as she swung her kicking tail to the impulse of a furious, baffled sea.

"What's he saying?" he asked.

The navigating officer and a quartermaster worked away with spray-wetted glasses and the sodden volume of the Signal Code, and a slow grin began to crease the officer's face. But that face was gravely severe as he reported:

"He says, sir: 'Captain Santa Claus, of the Mercury, wishes all aboard the compliments of the season!'"

"God bless my soul!" gasped Loxley. He took the glasses and, through them, made out, on the freighter's bridge, a squat, white-bearded figure, who, recognising himself as being under observation, waved a reassuring arm. Loxley thought of the captains' room of the Port of Call; of the hushed and sleeping children and women below—all safe; of Dorothy Soames, whom he would see again; of a humbled but not eternally disgraced man, thanks to the stupendous gallantry of the old man he had insulted.

"Some Santa Claus!" he said chastenedly. "He's brought us a proper Christmas gift—life!"

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HONG KONG.

be dared. All these were in the arms of that inexhaustible patriarch of Christmas. And he would come at twelve o'clock precisely.

Yet—confound the fellow!—there he was, as large as life, on the landing before me, and it lacked some minutes to the hour.

I would have sworn it was he, though every judge in England had called me before him and a thousand barristers in spotless bands had cross-examined me.

Arms Laden With Gifts

A tall and bent old man; his white beard flowing upon his withered bosom; his arms loaded with gifts; his footfall ghostly. For a terrible moment I saw him, and then he vanished from my sight. I stood there, transfixed by wonder and unable to move a step.

Good gracious! Had I and all the world been lying about this old man for hundreds of years? Were there, in truth, more things in heaven and earth than were dreamed of in our philosophy? It was as though a hand from the Unseen had gripped me by the arm and a ghostly voice had whispered, "Believe, believe!—the children's stories are true; they are not fakes. There are fairies. This is a Father Christmas, and you—oh man!—have been permitted to see him."

This, I say, was my first impression, but not readily would I surrender my reason to the voices. A long, a very long whisky and soda in the study below somewhat steadied the imagination, and I began to study with more calm a situation which undoubtedly had shaken me. In this mood I recalled all that I knew of spiritualism,

and bethought me of ancient jargon concerning subjectives and objectives, and all that stuff. Clearly the brain had projected this image and I had been so obsessed by the child's hope of this mythical pantaloons with the white beard that I had actually created him for myself—thrown him upon the screen of my imagination—and been frightened by him. And yet, as Betsy Prig observed, I did not believe there was any "sich person." It was absurd, preposterous!—hardly a story even for modern children.

To this thought I clung obstinately. Father Christmas did not exist, and I had not seen him.

Pantaloons of Dreams

Valiant because of the assurance, I composed myself to remember that I had left the gifts upstairs, and that, much as I despised the pantaloons of dreams, I had still to play his part. Duty must be done, and the role fulfilled: and cheered, as ever, by the task, I set out once more to perform it.

The house was empty of ghosts, I said, and I was alone.

Yet hardly had that thought come to me when a new and ominous sound smote upon my ready ear. Someone moved upon the stairway. I could hear the stealthy shuffling of alien footsteps—almost, I thought, the sound of a man's breathing. And my heart beat fast at that. I did not stop to ask myself if ghosts breathed.

A man or a spirit coming down my stairs! If the latter, he would walk through me, I imagined, as X rays may pass through the chest of a fat man. If the former, he would probably shoot me, unless previously I had taken the precaution to hit him on the head with a candlestick. The latter was

old and heavy and of Sheffield plate—a fact which I hoped the Father would appreciate. And I gripped it as though it were a bludgeon, and made my steps as stealthy as his own, and crept like a very night-bird cut into the hall, and met the fellow face to face—and, by heaven! as the dramatists say, it was Father Christmas, and still his arms were full of gifts. Why, then, did I pluck him by the beard, rudely and unspiritually? God alone knows, but I did, and the hair remained upon his face, and the beard did not come off in my hands.

"Guv'ner," he observed shrewdly, "it's a fair cop, and I'll come quiet."

Common words, I am told, often uttered in such emergencies.

Abandon The Wreckage

The very old gentleman wished to intimate thereby that, having broken into my house and acquired a set of tortoiseshell ornaments together with an old fur coat and a diamond horseshoe pin, he was willing to abandon this wreckage and to accompany me without resistance to the police station.

But I did not conduct him thither.

How could I—and tell the boy that Father Christmas was in gaol? Such things are not done. I let the old man go, and I believe he cried, "God bless yer."

And now I am back upon the old problem:

"Does that mythical personage called Father Christmas exist, or does he not?"

In the case that he does, he is, self-confessed, a burglar—though obviously he could not be prosecuted for housebreaking.

I must leave it to the lawyers and to the decanter of "pre-war."

HARING the HEARTH FIRE



Suggestions for the Holiday Celebration

By MARJORIE HOWE DIXON

IF one is a mother and has two daughters away at school and holidays are approaching, there is much planning to be done. Two girls home from school are delightful. And two more girl chums as house guests, and something is sure to be doing every moment. If the phone isn't ringing, there is a special delivery boy at the front door, while a man selling holly appears at the back door.

She studied her calendar for a moment. "The girls will get in Saturday evening. There will be church and dinner Sunday. Tea will be rather quiet. Annabel will want to bring Jean, I know, and Eleanor will bring some one new, doubtless—and a little lonesome. Well, Monday they will be busy with presents, and Tuesday they'll have their hands full trimming the tree and decorating the house. Thursday I do want to have the old ladies (hum—not so old) and then there is the big party Friday."

"To go back to Tuesday—Christmas Eve. Shall we be alone or have the boys? There'll have to be a vote taken on that. Two dinners to deliver for sweet charity—the boys could help. All the smaller packages they could take, too."

So she mused and sat down to write the girls. Annabel, the oldest, was in her Junior year. Jean Alling had come home with her last year for the holidays and had proved a perfect treasure. Trust Annabel to find one such. Eleanor, a freshman, was serious and studious. She had loosened up a bit in her last year in High, but she still had to be dragged away from a book and sent outdoors for some exercise. There was no telling whom she'd bring home with her.

Her mother wrote: "Remember that some girls will not enjoy our holidays. You will all help as usual. Some one who is lonesome, if she be the sincere type, will be happy with us. I leave it to you."

Plans With Her Girls

The girls arrived and mother gave them till Sunday tea to work off their excitement at getting home and caring for their friends. Then she asked them in the quiet twilight hour with only a candle, and the hearth fire for light, to think ahead for the week and plan what they would like to do.

"Mother dear," purred Annabel, on her mother's chair arm, "I know you have an idea or two. Christmas Eve per usual. Ditto Christmas Day—church and a big feed—Thursday sleighing or skating—Friday the grande partie—Saturday, rest a bit and Monday much the same." She kissed her mother's chin.

"Till you see what the weather is, the sleighing part will have to ride," said mother, quite unconscious of a pun. The girls exchanged giggles. "I did want to give some little affair for Aunt Crosby and her beloved class of 1890."

Class Reunion Yearly

Eleanor explained to Rosa, her guest, that Aunt Crosby had been able to get six of her class together for a reunion every

year, by means of borrowing cars enough and going after them.

"Let's plan their party for Thursday evening and have the boys go after them and we'll have an 1890 ball," said Jean unexpectedly.

"Why, Jean, that's an awfully quaint and cunning idea," said mother. "What do you girls think?"

"Perfectly great, Jean! Too daring for words! Have each of them bring her favourite photograph album!" the girls chimed in. "We'll get checker boards and parchesi and Flinch decks, and authors and Old Maid—it will be ever so much fun!"

Rosa, a lovely Spanish girl, who had come from Mexico City to college, wore a little frown.

"What is it?" asked Eleanor.

"I do not know these games. I have had much trouble to learn bridge. Are these still more difficult?"

Parchesi and Checkers

Shouts of laughter greeted her. Eleanor gave her a little hug. "Why, no," she said, "they are as easy—as easy as pie. And besides you can have one of the old dears teach you parchesi or checkers. They would be so pleased. They'd win, of course—but then it's their party." Rosa understood.

"You folks have your big dance the next night at the country club, so we must not put too many parties together," said mother, doubtfully. Annabel chuckled.

"Why honey-bunch," she said, "they'll think it's ever so exciting to stay up till ten o'clock and the boys can take them home then, and be back home themselves by eleven. So we better start early, say, about seven. We'll get the list of names from Aunt Crosby and begin telephoning in the morning."

Annabel was the one who loved to plan, and mother knew she would have seventeen new ideas to add by morning.

Arrange for Christmas Eve

"Let's take a minute to think of Christmas Eve," said mother. "There'll be the tree for all of us, of course; do you girls want to have the boys then?"

Rosa listened with much interest. It was her first Christmas in a home in "the States" and over everything fell a lovely glamour. How very fortunate she was to be able to visit in such a home as this—she hardly had a moment to think of her own loved mother and brothers, or feel homesick.

"If we have the boys, of course, we can't have the real presents," said Eleanor. "We'd have to get some funny things, and jokes and so on. Of course, Old Fritz would be pretty lonesome if there were only Dad here. He's always here at Christmas," she explained to Rosa, "because he's so far from home."

Annabel moved and Jean seconded the idea of having the boys. "Why, two of them are staying at the hotel (that is, every moment they have to be away from us), and think how dull Christmas Eve would be."

"For them or for us?" asked Jean with a twinkle in her eye.

Recalls Entertainment of 1890

"I keep thinking of the 1890 ball," said Annabel, ignoring her. "What was the name of that mind parlour entertainment that consisted in looking at a double photograph on a do-funny that you held up to your eyes to peer through?"

"Stereoptican?" suggested mother.

"No, stereoscope," said Eleanor the precise. "Oh, where can we dig up one of these? How perfectly thrilling it must have been to have lived then, and feel so shocked about ladies in bloomers on bikes! We must beg them to tell us about it, Mother!"

"Then there's New Year's Eve to plan," said mother. "You have your choice of the dance or the quiet 'Watch Night' service at Grandfather's. Of course, you start back the next day. What do you want to do?"

New Year's Watch Night

Rosa's velvet eyes gleamed. "That sounds so pretty," she said. "Watch Night! I expect you watch the New Year come in."

"And grandfather says a prayer for us all, and we sing a perfectly rousing hymn, to end with, don't we, mother?" Eleanor forthwith announced her decision of going to Grandfather's for New Year's Eve.

"Jean has such a case on Grandfather that I shall have to go as her chaperone." Annabel smiled sideways at her friend. "Let's all go to bed right now! And say thirteen separate prayers for snow all day Monday and Tuesday. Then we will have a beautiful white Christmas for Rosa, and a sleighing party later and skiing and other excitements. I just bet Rosa never made a snow man, did you, dear?"

"Never have I seen snow save on the mountain tops," said Rosa. "Pictures showing snow over everything I have seen—but they seemed like pretty visions. I will help pray for snow, too, for it is surely my deep desire to see a snow fall."

Snowfall Later in Season

"In the good old days there was always a heavy snow at Thanksgiving, mother says. But this year it is awfully late. But it ought to be great when it does come, Rosa," said Eleanor.

"Good night, dear, and pleasant dreams for a Merry Christmas," said mother as each girl kissed her and started for the stairs.

EARLY CELEBRATIONS

Christmas day is, officially, the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ but we have no evidence that He was born on December 25. Some of the early Christians celebrated the festival at the beginning of January, some at the time of the Jewish passover, others chose the Feast of Tabernacles. The Eastern Church then decided upon January 6, while the Western Church took December 25 as the date of the nativity. Finally, both churches agreed upon December 25 and that date was officially fixed for the whole of Christendom by Pope Julius I.

IN THE EMPIRE

Christmas is still the happiest day in the year throughout the British Empire. If we are not so light-hearted as our forefathers were we must blame the times and not ourselves. The hustle and bustle of modern life were unknown to our ancestors, they had more time to themselves, they had less care, the pace was not so fast, they could be jolly and they were. To the jaded exile from home, the greatest charm of Christmas, the family re-union, must always be lacking; but in his heart he will always spend Christmas at Home.

THE BEARDED GHOST

By MAX PEMBERTON

(Passed by the Censor for Adult Performance Only)

[Mr. Max Pemberton is one of the most prolific of modern novelists, his list of successful stories being remarkably lengthy. In addition to this extraordinary fictional output, Mr. Pemberton has produced several plays and revues, which have enjoyed considerable popularity. The author was born at Birmingham in 1863, and was educated at Merchant Tailors' School and Caius College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. He published his first novel, "The Diary of a Scoundrel," in 1891, acted as editor of "Chums" in 1892-93 and as editor of "Cassell's Magazine" from 1896 to 1906.]

There are divers great criminals, from murderers upwards, but I have always thought that he who destroys a child's illusions—provided it be a worthy illusion—is deserving of something lingering with boiling oil in it.

Consider the fairies, who spin, though they toil not—would you rid the woods of one of them or lift a single slate from the roof of the house in which the Three Bears reside?

And who would have the heartlessness to tell the child that the driver of the mail cart is not really a much greater person than the Prime Minister, and that the guard of the train which carries us to the sea should not have the Order of the "Oh, Be Early!" conferred upon him without question?

I am all for these childish illusions—and I am also the most faithful and loyal subject of Father Christmas—whom I have had the honour to meet but only upon one occasion, when, I must admit, the old gentleman was by no means in an agreeable mood, and far from that type of benevolence with which I have always associated him.

I must tell you about this, for truly it was quite a pretty adventure.

II.

The boy was six years old, and he had toyed with the idea of Christmas for many months.

A letter, I think, went to the Father early in September, and divers other letters between that date and Christmas. The mind of the child was often changed, as the mind of the healthy boy should be. We began with the idea of a Carter Paterson van, and were far from ending with a bicycle. In the interim the old white-haired patriarch, who appears upon Christmas Eve for one performance only, had been requested to hand out a torpedo-boat (with engine); an electric train (with trucks); an aeroplane which would carry the recipient to the moon—(why not?—an interrogation frequently put to me) and a dog like other dogs, whose tails you pull. These letters were duly forwarded, though, I fear, shockingly treated by the Postmaster-General. How many times I imperilled my immortal soul by declaring them duly delivered, heaven alone knows! Yet, perchance—who can say?—that lie may be blotted out by angels' tears, even as were the oaths of Uncle Toby in an angelic society which subscribed to his books.

What The Image Stands For

Of course, like all grown men, I had a vague idea that Father Christmas did exist somehow—if not in the flesh, then surely in the spirit. We humans have conjured up an image, but that image stands for an eternal truth—the love of the child and the love of the home in which the child is harboured. This breath of brotherhood upon the world during the last week in December is a breath surely from the great unseen heaven round about us; a kindly word from a serene shore; an impulse from the dead who are alive. And if we clothe our idea in flesh and blood, who is harmed thereby? The old man with the white beard is the father of the world upon Christmas Eve. Let us guard his worship faithfully, for are we not his messengers, and is not it a capital crime to betray him?

In this mood I went out to do my duty upon the momentous occasion to which I am referring.

We all know that Battle of the Stores, and many of us wear its medals. Therein we suffer the elbows of other men, the contumely of young women, and the far from glad eye of the dowager upon whose toes we have trodden. But we win through in the end, and a taxi carries the plunder of war to our domicile.

For my part, I emerged at length with one stocking (large), a dog which came out of his kennel when you called him, the model of a Great Western tank engine and five trucks to match, and the complete material for building the Forth Bridge in a bedroom of average size. It was a little difficult to get these things into the house without observation, and Ananias was once again remembered as an old friend; but they were hidden under my bed ultimately, and with the guilty secret on my soul, I proceeded to help to decorate the youthful sanctum and to assure the boy that Father Christmas had just left the realms of the blest, and that the very latest aeroplane was now rapidly carrying him to earth.

"He got my letters? the boy asked. I assured him that every one was faithfully received.

"And if I sit up, will I see him for myself?"

This was a little more difficult.

Must Be Right Chimney

"I wouldn't do that, sonny," said I, "he might take offence if he found you awake. Wouldn't it be awful if he sent your things down the wrong chimney?"

"But he doesn't send them; he comes himself—Jim next door saw him once, he told me so."

"Jim is er—Jim is mistaken, I think. I wouldn't risk it if I were you, sonny. I'd go to bed and go to sleep."

He thought upon that a little dubiously. The longing to see the bearer of gifts was unmistakable.



"Do you think it's too late to tell him to bring a bath duck instead of a green crocodile?"

"I fear it is, sonny—you see, all the letters have gone. He wouldn't get that one in time. You'll have to have the duck next year."

"Perhaps he'll think of it himself?"

Perhaps he will." I was wondering if they sold bath ducks in the neighbourhood—at the place where you get the bath salts. Pity if the Patriarch were discredited—such a good old man. But, naturally, I did not mention my speculations aloud—and so we went on decorating the sanctum, and hammered nails into its beautiful wall and hung up the streamers and fixed the exhortations to a merry Christmas and got the boy to bed at last to dream of the Father and his gifts.

How little did I foresee that I should meet the old gentleman myself, long before the boy awoke—in the silence of the night; in fact, as the old romancers say.

III.

When a man is arrested we all know that the first thing the police do is to caution him that anything he may say may be used as evidence against him. I would preface this confession with a protest that we kept that Christmas Eve with strict moderation, that nobody smoked more than one cigar at a time, nor did we "quaff" the flowing bowl in which beer is boiled and apples bubble. There was a slight imbibing of hot sherry and eggs, I remember; for we are great sticklers for the ancient traditions, and a Christmas Eve upon which hot sherry and eggs is not consumed would be no Christmas Eve at all.

This disclaimer is necessary in view of the incredulity of a cold world; and the disposition of the common man to ask what you have been drinking when any unusual story is unfolded to him. Let my friends know, then, that I was as sober as a judge; though how sober judges may be I have had few opportunities of learning. Indeed, I would set it upon record that it was a quarter to twelve precisely when I went up to my bedroom to unmask the guilty secret and that there was whisky still left in the decanter below.

To be sure, the house was very silent, and that may have had something to do with it.

The Ancient Clock

I remember that I heard a distant sound, as of the cook snoring, when I emerged from my bedroom; and that, in the intervals of her swan-song, I could have counted the "tick-tack" of the ancient clock upon the landing.

The boy, of course, was fast asleep, breathing like an angel, if angels breathe, which may be open to doubt.

What dreams of man and beast must have been surging in that little brain—what visions of the white-bearded Father and his gifts—trains that were real trains and motor-cars which would deceive even the porter at the door—animals more strange than any which came out of the ark and aeroplanes in which the very heavens might

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CHRISTMAS
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FANCY DRESSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Charming Frock For A Small Sum

THIS season the popularity of the fancy dress party promises to be greater than ever. Fancy dresses are expensive to buy ready made, but cheap to make. The two dresses sketched in our illustration are very pretty and becoming, are quite easy to make, and may each be made for a small sum. When you have settled upon your design and obtained the pattern, hunt through everything you possess before you buy a scrap of material. So often little things that have been put away



and forgotten come in splendidly for a fancy dress and add greatly to its effect. For instance, the strings and trimming on Miss 1929's bonnet will have to be carried out in sateen if the price be kept down, but a little fur or swansdown, or a ruche of net, and some ribbon which has already done duty on a garment would greatly add to the effect of the bonnet.

Miss 1929

You will need four yards of printed winceyette, printed sateen, or printed cotton, (the printed winceyette is made in the most charming colourings, and is particularly pretty); $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of sateen, and $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of similar material in contrasting colour; three yards of narrow lace. Dress of cream winceyette patterned with blue and pink flowers; bonnet of blue sateen lined with pink sateen, pink bows and trimming, and edge of pink gauged sateen; if no swansdown or net is available, is a suggestion for a pretty colour scheme.

Follow The Diagram

The diagram shows you exactly how the material should be folded and the patterns placed. Where "fold" is not printed in the pattern the fold comes at the bottom and the selvedges down both sides. Where the fold is at the side the selvedges come together down the opposite side. Pin all selvedges securely together and all patterns firmly into place. The bodice fastens down the back. Put a wrap facing on the left edge and a flat facing on the right edge of the opening. Fasten with hooks and eyes. Join the shoulder seams. Bind the neck edge with a crossway strip of material. Put in the tucker. Join the underarm seams. Make up the sleeves, set them into a narrow strap of the material, and put in a tucker. Put the sleeves into the bodice. Join up the skirt seams, make a placket down the back, and face it up. Gather the top of the skirt, join bodice and skirt together, and hide the joining by a strap of material. Cut four straight strips 9in. wide from the material, join them, gather the flounce with a heading, hide the gathers under a piping, and put on to the skirt. Cut the bonnet out first in thin cardboard, cover, line and trim it.

The Hour

Materials required: $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards of sateen; $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards of sateen for sash; $\frac{3}{4}$ yard for jacket; $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards of white butter muslin. Suggested colour scheme: White sleeves and bodice, pale yellow trousers, deep green jacket ornamented with designs cut out of tinsel paper and gummed on, cerise red sash.

The Jacket

Cut the jacket out twice. Join the shoulder and side seams of jacket and lining,

then turn in raw edges and slip-stitch the lining inside the coat. Decorate as gaily as possible with shapes cut out of tinsel, or any sham jewels—the gayer the more effective the dress. Join the bodice seams, hem the neck, and run in a drawing thread. Hem the bottom and thread with elastic. Cut the sleeves up where the slit is marked, and hem the edges and the bottom. Join up the



sleeve seams, gather the top to fit the armholes and again where the gathers are marked, and hide by a strip of material. Put the sleeve in. Join up the trousers seams, hem top and bottom and thread with elastic. Cut the sash to fit you, hem the ends, and fasten with hooks and eyes. Fold and knot the rest of the muslin round the head, as in the sketch.

A CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN

By MARJORIE HOWE DIXON

TO begin with, there is the children's view point. They put their faith in little trolls in Sweden. A troll is a tiny Santa Claus—it is as if Santa had a great many helpers who are called Jul Tomtar. There is always a troll for every home. The old grandfather said he remembered the bowl of rice that was always placed in the barn on Christmas Eve for the Trolls. In the morning the rice was gone! And that day the work went so quickly, because all the little trolls helped! Who could doubt grandfather?

Then there is this matter of wooden shoes. In Sweden in the school house entry

is a row of pigeon holes. Each lad places his wooden shoes therein before he enters the school room. Inside he wears soft shoes or heavy woollen socks. The trolls are watching him. If he has been naughty, on Christmas morning he may find a little switch in his shoes. But if he has been good there will be presents. All through the holidays the children take part. They must be very very busy, with preparations, and songs to learn, and mother to help, and presents to pack.

Placed in Various Positions

Then they must watch while father or uncle ties a sheaf of wheat to a post for the birds' Christmas. This may be oats. It is sometimes tied to a chimney, sometimes on the top of a post, and then other times is placed in the branches of a tree.

To begin the holidays there is a little

ceremony for the thirteenth of December. "Santa Lucia," a pretty girl, attended by five baker boys, comes to call on a family at five o'clock in the morning. Since they will surely be in bed, she walks in, bringing coffee, while the baker boys bring buns, one kind like a cat with a raisin for an eve, and the other with four wheels. "Santa Lucia" wears a green wreath about her head in which are thirteen lighted candles. Just think, she will have to go to school that day—and get the candle grease out of her hair before she goes.

The day of Christmas Eve is a full holiday and is very jolly and gay. Christmas day in contrast is very quiet and thoughtful. Each has its special dinner, at which certain viands are part of tradition.

(Continued on Page 30.)

CHRISTMAS FROLIC "BELOW STAIRS"



Their Majesties In The Role Of Santa Claus



By DR. W. GREENWOOD, F.S.A.

WHILE King and Queen and courtiers are holding their Yuletide revels it must not be imagined that the humbler retainers of royalty are allowed to lack anything of the season's enjoyment, for their Majesties take care that every retainer, from that exalted personage, the principal State coachman, to the youngest recruit of kitchen or stable, shall have every facility for spending a right merry Christmas.

At every royal palace, from Windsor to Balmoral, although the Court may be a day's journey away, the household staff has its full programme of feasting and festivities, the cost of which comes out of the King's generous purse. The Master of the Horse is the nominal host at all these junketings, while the Crown Equerry plays the role of Master of the Ceremonies.

Some weeks before Christmas Day dawn's permission is given to use one of the coach-houses, and the Superintendent of the Mews sets to work to provide seasonable entertainment for young and old, for the guests not only include relatives of the retainers, even the mothers-in-law, but also the tiniest child that can toddle or pull a cracker. The prospectuses of entertainers, from musical clowns and negro minstrels to conjurers and Father Christmas, in *propria persona*, carrying an immense plum-pudding from which to distribute his presents, are carefully studied and compared until a happy selection is made.

Veritable Fairy Palace

As the great day draws near the coach-house is cleared, and a few hours of work by enthusiastic hands convert it into a veritable fairy palace. Carpets are borrowed from the Lord Chamberlain's stores; the royal parks yield mountains of ever-greens; platforms spring into being as by the touch of a magic hand; and the palace electricians put the last touch of beauty with hundreds of vari-coloured lamps.

At five o'clock the first of the guests pour in—merry, bright-eyed troupes of children to feast eyes and appetites on the wonders provided for them. The long tables are spread for them with every tempting variety of cakes, fruits and sweets, which kept little tongues silent for a glorious half-hour. Thus, when the last gourmand cries, "Hold! Enough!" tables and delicacies disappear, and, replete and happy, the children watch the antics of clowns, the mysteries of conjuring or the marvels of the cinema.

The entertainment concluded, the crowning moment is reached when some great Court lady makes her appearance and hands to each small guest a present specially chosen for him or her. Then, indeed, eyes sparkle, and exclamations of delight rise to a pandemonium, until the National Anthem brings the day's enjoyment to an enthusiastic close.

The Band Strikes

When the children have retired their parents and elder relatives come on the scene; the band strikes up some merry dance, and light feet trip through the too swift hours until far into the next morning, with intervals of such feasting as the King himself would not despise.

The programme, it should be said, varies from year to year. In Queen Victoria's time an amateur pantomime was followed by a distribution of toys and trinkets from a mammoth Christmas tree. Now the pantomime has given place to professional entertainments of the kind mentioned, while the gifts are wisely chosen for their usefulness. But always the secret of the day's programme is jealously guarded, and anticipation is thus kept at its keenest to the last moment.

At Sandringham, where the Royal Family usually spends its Yuletide, the household servants have their ball in Christmas week, at which a large Christmas tree, groaning under its weight of presents and brilliant with rainbow lights, is dismantled, and each servant receives a special gift from the hands of royalty. The Queen personally superintends the loading of the tree, which stands in the centre of the ballroom, keeping its secrets until the hour comes for the distribution. At Sandringham, too, the children are specially favoured, for after their entertainment the Queen usually officiates as Santa Claus and presents the gifts to the delighted little ones with her own hands.

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To Dame Fashion from a Hairpin Manufacturer.

Beauty draws us by a shingle hair.

To the Artist from the Income-Tax Inspector.

Poverty is a crime; and you are not a very convincing criminal. I shall send you the charge sheet on New Year's Day.

If you could only draw as easily as usual as I do, you wouldn't be so poverty-stricken, curse you!

To a Greyhound from an Electric Hare.

I'm putting presents in your stockings;
Don't kiss me or you'll find I'm "shocking."

To Father Christmas from a Rude Boy.

I don't believe in you, Old Claus—
Your reindeer and romances;

But hang my jersey up because—
I am not taking chances.

To a Constituent from his M.P.

Apart from Guy Fawkes, I am the only parliamentary person prepared to carry out his promise.

Believe me,
Yours very truly,
N. N. NYUS.

P.S.—It was very frosty when I was last in the constituency, but I trust there will be no frost in the coming Autumn.

Tenants Remembered

It is not only the household staffs for whose Yuletide their Majesties provide so liberally. All the tenants on the royal estates and their families, and also the people living in the villages near the various royal houses share their beneficence.

The King takes care that there shall be suitable Christmas cheer in every home, and provides joints of beef and other substantial commodities, which are duly distributed by the agent and his assistants.

The presents to women and children—which the Queen has chosen in accordance with their requirements—are delivered at the cottage homes on the same day. Useful goods are always selected, warm garments forming a large item. The school children have their new scarlet cloaks at the same time, supplemented by toys and articles suitable to their ages.

At Sandringham there is, on Christmas Eve, a distribution of large joints of prime meat from cattle fed on the estate to the cottagers and labourers.

The great coach-house is utilised for the occasion, where over a ton of meat is stacked in joints which allow two pounds for each adult and one pound for each child. The scene in the coach-house is a very animated one. Before the distribution their Majesties hold an informal reception, and shake hands with their humble guests. The King has a few cheery words for each one, and her Majesty wishes them all a merry Christmas.

Prince And Princess

Of this occasion an eye-witness, who was fortunate enough to be present a few years ago, has given the writer the following account:—"The Royal coach-house had been cleared for the occasion. Long trestle-tables had been put up, and festoons of decorative green gave an additional air of gaiety. Expectation was rife as to who of the royal family would be present; and, as the hour appointed for the distribution drew near, we were all delighted to see the entry of the Prince of Wales and his brothers, with Princess Mary. They were closely followed by the King and Queen.

Then the royal persons took their places near the top of the centre table, and the villagers began to file up to receive their gifts. Every detail had been worked out beforehand, and so every recipient was furnished in accordance with the needs and requirements of his family, widows and lone women sharing the cheer.

And so the gifts were distributed. Hearty cheers were given for the King and Queen and the other members of the Royal family, and the company streamed out, wending its way to the various villages of the estate, with baskets and bright-hued handkerchiefs filled with joints and other commodities.

Only the hale and hearty are bidden to the reception, but no one on the estate is forgotten, and those living at a distance, as well as the old and infirm, have their Christmas beef taken to their homes. For the old ladies there is a special gift from the Queen, which takes the form of warm clothing and other seasonable presents.

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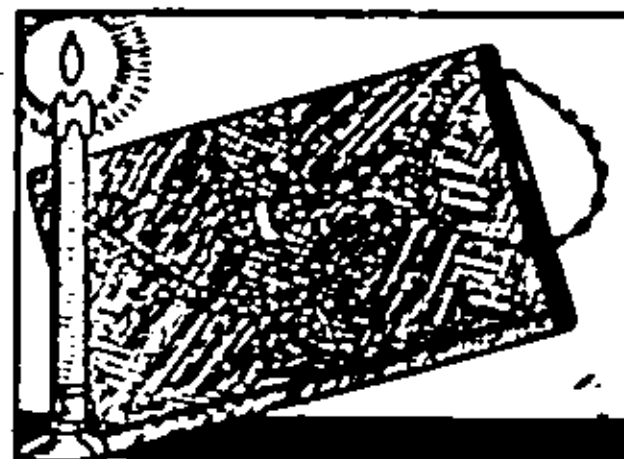
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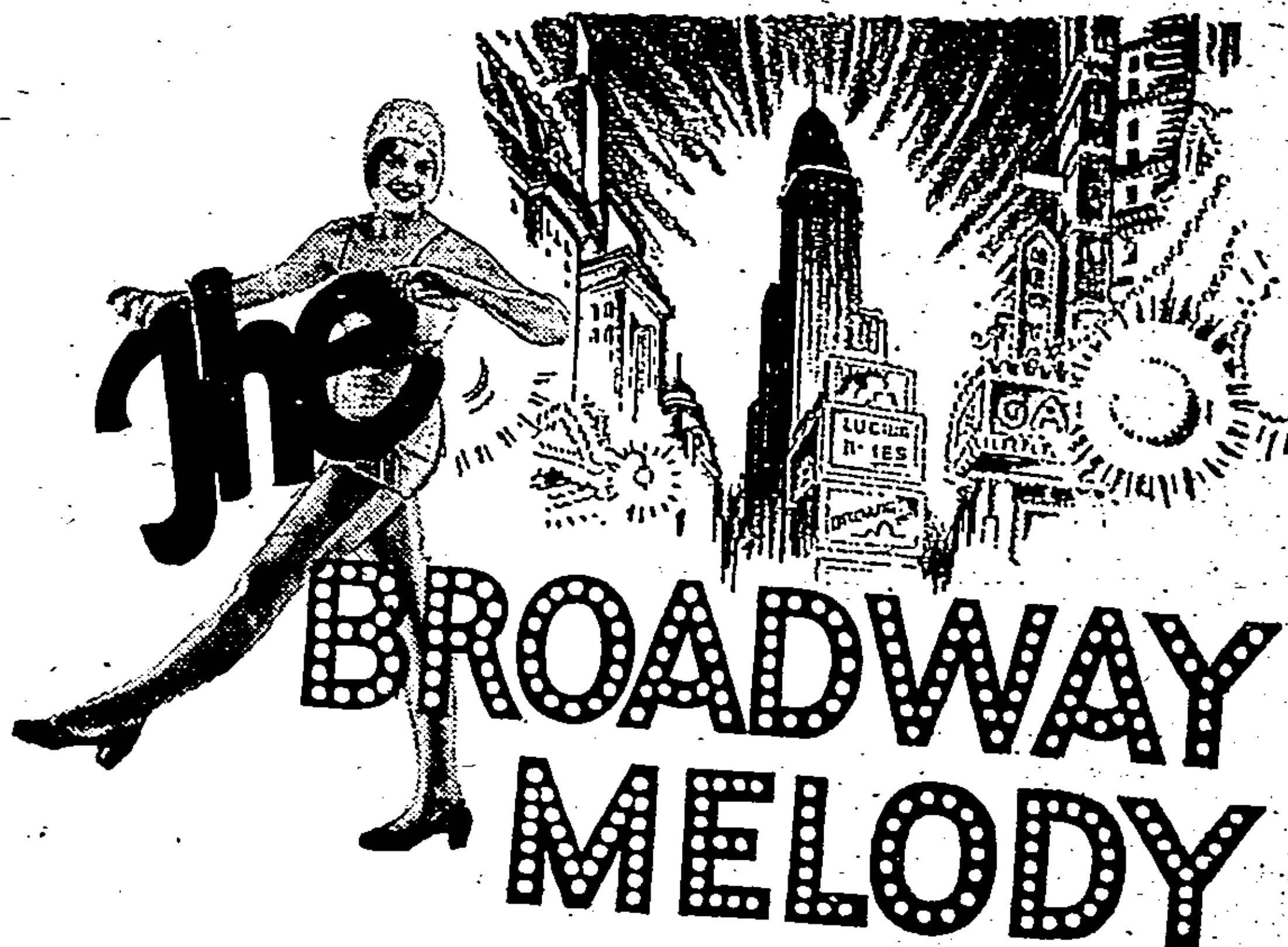
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ELIZABETH'S ADVENTURE IN SNOWLAND



- By AUNT EDITH



ELIZABETH was sitting on the window seat in the nursery gazing out into the garden. The sky was grey, the garden was dull, and Elizabeth was feeling dull and miserable, too. It was just three days before Christmas, and this was Elizabeth's first winter in England. She had spent the seven years of her life in warm countries, and she had looked forward so much to having a real Christmas with holly and mistletoe, snow and robins, a Christmas tree and parties, just like her mother told her she had had when she was a little girl. Now it was all so disappointing. There was no snow, she had not even seen a robin, and she had not been able to go with her cousins to a party this afternoon because she had caught a bad cold. Poor Elizabeth! She felt very like crying, then she looked into the warm nursery with its big glowing fire and the tea laid ready for herself and her aunt, who was staying at home with her, and she tried to be brave. Her father and mother in far-away India would want her to be brave, she knew.

Suddenly she heard a little voice saying, "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"

A Robin Talking

It was a robin talking to her! A robin perched on the sill outside the window, looking boldly into her face.

"Oh, you darling!" cried Elizabeth; but the robin did not stay to listen.

Tiny bits of white stuff began to fall slowly through the air, just like little white feathers. Then more and more, quicker and quicker, until there was a mad whirl of white fluff outside the window.

"It must be snow," said Elizabeth, talking aloud to herself. "Real snow. It's just like a Christmas card. How perfectly lovely! I hope it will snow and snow for days and days."

She thought of all the exciting stories she had heard about snow. Snowballs and snow-men, skating, and people being lost in the snow, and she did wish that some really exciting adventure would happen to her.

"Come and play! Come and play!" she heard a little voice saying. "We are having an awfully exciting game."

Elizabeth gave a jump. Who could have spoken? Then, riding on a snowflake she saw a little fairy in a white fur coat.

"Open the window!" shouted the fairy. "We will take care of you, and you'll be back in time for tea."

Of course, no one in search of adventure would refuse to obey such an exciting command, and in a second Elizabeth was standing on the window-ledge; but, strange to say, she was now as small as the fairy, and she did not feel the slightest fear.

"Hop on a snowflake," said the fairy, "and join in the race."

So Elizabeth jumped on a snowflake, and immediately she was whirled down, down, down. At last she reached the bottom.

Peep at Snowland

"I won," said her fairy friend. "I was just in front of you. Now would you like just a peep—only a peep—at Snowland?"

"I should love it," answered Elizabeth.

"Then up we go again. Catch another snowflake."

This time Elizabeth and the fairy rode on the same snowflake, and instead of going down they went up and up until they reached a huge white cloud. Then they just floated into the midst of it, and there was a huge castle made of ice.

"This is the home of the Snow King," explained her friend, "and this big cloud is Snowland. It is here that all the snowflakes are made, and the snow fairies have a terribly busy time finding all the people who lose their way in the snow and guiding them safe home again. Every snowflake that goes down to earth has a fairy on it, but only very few people are allowed to see them. You are one of the lucky ones."

"Thank you very much, said Elizabeth. "It's awfully good of you. But do tell me more. Who is the Snow King, what does he do, where does he live in summer, why—?"

"Oh, stop!" begged the fairy. "One at a time, please. The Snow King is a great friend of Father Christmas, and in summer he lives at the North Pole; but he generally tries to get to England at Christmas time."

A CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN

(Continued from Page 28.)

Start With Many Relishes

Dinner, Christmas Eve, started with "Smorgasbord." This is typically Swedish and consists of many relishes, anchovies, sausages, potato salad and cheese. This was followed by a traditional dish, "Lutfisk." This is a special creamed cod fish. The fish is dried and prepared weeks in advance. It must be cooked exactly ten minutes or it will dissolve. At this meal "Rullsylta" is another special dish. This is a head cheese made of rolled pork and beef. The mention of cheese makes one remember the "Julc" a special Christmas cheese, prepared many weeks ahead of Christmas. It must stand all this time in order to acquire flavour.

Dessert for Christmas Eve is a rice pudding flavoured with cinnamon and served with milk. In it are placed a thimble for the one who is to be an old maid—a ring for the first to be married, and a gold coin for riches. It is a bowl of this rice that is served to the trolls. No wonder they help so blithely the next day.

Popcorn Is Missing

After all this food, comes the Christmas tree. The American girl who was visiting noticed the absence of our popcorn. Her Swedish friends assured her it was quite unknown, but that was twenty years ago. The tree was very lovely with its bright candles and many packages. These were gifts with little jokes for the family as well as more treasured presents.

Christmas Day begins very early with a special church service at five o'clock. Every one attends regardless of their attendance the rest of the year. One old custom must have been a beautiful sight. Each sleigh as it started out in the dimness of winter dawn carried a torch fore and aft. A procession of these sleighs must have presented a fairy-like appearance worth remembering.

(Continued on Page 32.)

Sometimes he cannot manage it as he is so busy arranging for snow and ice in other parts of the world, but he tries to send snow at Christmas if he can, for Father Christmas knows that British children love snow and ice, and he wants to make them happy. You have heard of Jack Frost, haven't you? He is the king's special messenger. He always goes in advance of the king."

"Do you always live on a cloud?" asked Elizabeth.

"Yes: we drift from place to place. The North Wind—he's another friend of the king—drives us along. But we musn't stand here talking. There is going to be a big snowball fight in a few minutes between the frost fairies and the snow fairies. Will you join us?"

Ice Castle

Of course Elizabeth loved the idea, and she joined the snow fairies' side. They formed two long lines on a flat piece of snow in front of the Ice Castle, and tiny gnomes were kept busy supplying each side with snowballs. The fight was long and frightfully exciting. First Elizabeth thought the frost fairies would win, then she thought her side would; and so it went on until in the end the snow fairies defeated the other side. Although it was such a fierce fight no one was hurt, for the snowballs were as soft as swansdown and they did not melt.

Afterwards all the fairies, both frost and snow, were given ices. Elizabeth thought she had never tasted anything so lovely.

"If you want to be back for tea you'll have to go now. I'll come with you to show you the way," said her fairy.

Down, down they flew, for snow was still falling, until they reached the nursery window.

"Good-bye," said the fairy, "and a merry Christmas to you."

"Good-bye," shouted Elizabeth, "and thank you very much. I shall never forget it—never!"

A minute later her aunt came into the room and turned on the light.

"Hullo! Elizabeth," she said. "I hope you are not very cold and lonely. Come along to tea now, and afterwards you can help me decorate the room with holly. Why, whatever have you got in your hand?"

Little White Fur Coat

Elizabeth looked down quickly. There in her hand lay a little white fur coat, very tiny, and slowly vanishing in the heat of the room.

"It's my little fur coat that I wore when I went to Snowland," explained Elizabeth. "Oh, Auntie, darling, I must tell you all about it."

Her aunt was very interested, so were her cousins when they came in, and, of course, Elizabeth had to write and tell her mother and father all about it too.

All that day and night it went on snowing, and at Christmas everywhere was perfectly white. Elizabeth was happy! Her cold got better, and on Christmas Day they had a lovely Christmas-tree and a party, and on Boxing Day she was well enough to have a game with real snowballs in the garden; but best of all she loved the snowball fight she had had in Snowland.

CHRISSIE'S CHRISTMAS FAIRY

(Continued from Page 4.)

"We are absolutely sold out, madam, unless for those on our own trees. You have left it rather late."

"I know," said Ruth, and, encouraged by the assistant's kindly manner, told her tale of the little child robbed at Christmas time of both daddy and mummy. The girl was touched, and called for the department manager.

After consulting together the manager turned to Ruth.

"If you could come to-morrow, madam, just on closing time, we could let you have one of our own fairies. Of course, you might find one in another store, but I very much doubt it."

"It is very kind of you," said Ruth gratefully. "I dare say I can find someone to take care of the children and let me come in again. How much will it be?"

He named a price which rather took her breath away. It would leave her with very little to carry on with till her next salary was due. But Chrissie must have her Christmas fairy, no matter what the cost.

Yet she believed she had but little of the true Christmas spirit in her, and felt a little sad as she made her way to the Kenyon home. She found Mary impatiently waiting her, all eagerness to get off to do some shopping of her own.

"And I hope you will come home earlier to-morrow, miss," she added. "I want to meet my sister at the station, so that we can go home together. Missus promised that I would get away just after lunch, but I wouldn't be disobliging."

Displayed The True Spirit

But when Ruth told the warm-hearted little Cockney maid the tale of the fairy quest she promptly displayed the true Christmas spirit.

"Well, Miss Elson, we can't ask any neighbour to look after other folks' kids on Christmas Eve. They've all enough to do with their own. So I reckon I'll just have to stick it till you get back with your fairy. After all, it ain't much to what you are doing."

"Oh, I'm going to have quite a good time," said Ruth, even though she was already feeling heart-sick at the prospective loneliness of a Christmas with only another woman's children for company—children too young to be really companionable to a gregarious soul like Ruth.

That feeling of loneliness was intensified a hundredfold next evening, when she formed one of the seething mass of gay, light-hearted last-minute shoppers in the great store.

No one else, she thought, sadly, seemed so entirely alone, though doubtless there were countless in the same plight. There, for instance, was a man just in front of her, wandering rather aimlessly along. There was something familiar in the set of his shoulders, she mused, just as he turned to the left for the jewellery department while she had to bear to the right for the toys. She got just a glimpse of his profile under his slouch hat. Her heart missed a beat.

He was like Ian, but a much older man. And Ian would be in Scotland by now, without doubt, making love, perhaps, to the girl the family had always wished him to marry—a rich manufacturer's daughter. Even if he were not, he would not be wandering alone on Christmas Eve in a big multiple store mainly patronised by people with not over-heavy purses. He had too many friends in London for that. He would have pick and choice of numerous gay gatherings for his Christmas Eve.

When she had struggled to the well-nigh denuded tree over which Chrissie's fairy still presided she had to wait a good half-hour before she got hold of the assistant she required. And even after that another ten minutes passed before the fairy could be taken down.

Must Bring Good Fortune

But when she really had it in her arms her face lit up with joy. It was even more beautiful than she had thought. Surely it would bring good fortune into the home—news, perhaps, that Chrissie's daddy was round the corner, going to get well.

She turned to struggle back to the lifts, going now against the streams. She had to pass the mechanical toys section, and there one of a crowd of men watching the working of the biggest toy electric railway she had ever seen, was Ian Graham—yes, unmistakably Ian. She had forgotten to take account of the years.

He had aged more than she had, after all. Before she could catch it back his name had escaped her lips. And above all the stir and noise and talk it reached his ears.

He looked up quickly. Their eyes met, questioned, answered, and—yes, caressed, in



the old familiar way, and then his hardened. He deliberately turned away.

The shock was so cruel that a little cry of pain was wrung from her but firmly repressed. She stopped dead for a moment. She felt a tug on her wrist, from which her bag was dangling, both hands being required to keep fast grip of her precious parcel. A shabby enough old bag it was, the last Christmas gift she had got from Ian. But it contained all she had—and she forgot everything but her need to save it.

Fairy Falls To Floor

She freed one hand to grab the would-be thief, someone jostled her, and the fairy fell to the floor and was speedily trampled

LEGEND OF WISE MEN

The legend of the Wise Men of the East, or, as they are styled in the original Greek of St. Matthew's gospel, the Magi, who visited the infant Saviour with precious offerings, became, under monkish influence, one of the most popular during the middle ages and was told with increased and elaborated perspicuity as time advanced. The Scripture nowhere informs us that these individuals were kings, or that their number was restricted to three. The legend converts the Magi into kings, gives their names, and a minute account of their stature and the nature of their gifts. Melchior (we are thus told) was king of Nubia, the smallest man of the triad, and he gave the Saviour a gift of gold, the emblem of royalty. Melchior means "King of Light." Balthazar was king of Chaldea. He offered incense. He was a man of ordinary stature. His name means "Lord of Treasure." But the third, Gaspar, king of Tarshish, was of high stature, a black Ethiopie, and he gave frankincense and myrrh, the emblems of divinity. Gaspar means "The White One." All came with many rich ornaments belonging to king's array, and also with mules, camels, and horses loaded with great treasure, and with multitude of people, to do homage to the Saviour, "then a little child of xiii dayes clde."

under foot.

Her cry of dismay rang out poignantly. Scores of eyes turned towards her. The thief made good his escape.

"What is it? What has happened? Stand back there! Give the lady room, air. She is fainting."

"I'm not." Pride came to her aid. "Catch the thief. Let me get my fairy. Ian—oh, Ian!" looking up with tear-dimmed eyes into his face. For he had forced his way to her side now, gripping her hands, giving of his strength. No matter what his cousin had written to him about a London lover, she was his—his woman—and he would defy any man to take her from him again.

"Never mind the doll, whatever it is, or your old purse either," he said in quietly authoritative tones. "Let us get out of this rabble. You've no right to be here alone."

She made no answer. Was there any need just then for words?

They got to the door, avoiding the lifts. They went silently down three long flights of stairs. They came out of a side entrance, where his car was waiting. He put her into it, then asked abruptly:

"Where to?"

And with quick understanding of him she answered, "Jenning's. You were to blame for Chrissie's Christmas fairy being broken. It is up to you to get the one on which she had first set her heart, which was far beyond my means. 'We'll just manage it before they close.'"

"Who is Chrissie, and what are you doing in London at all?" he demanded, when he had given the order and stepped into the car beside her. "I was told you were going home for the last time before you were married. And I stayed in London to avoid you, and refused every invitation, to enjoy my misery alone."

Difference Between Man And Woman

"And I stayed to avoid you—but with a temporary adopted family—the difference between man and woman," she said, between laughter and tears. "Chrissie is Edith Martin's little girl—only she is Edith Kenyon now, but as easy-going and irresponsible as ever. So I was buying the fairy for Chrissie, yearning—I can own it now—to be buying toys for my own child. And you—for whom were you contemplating the purchase of a railway?"

"For myself," he confessed, with the old boyish laugh, which had a wistful note as he added, "Wishing I could be taking it home to our son. Darling, it isn't true that there is another man, is it? The Christmas fairy has brought us together again in very truth."

"My dear—oh, my dear, there never was, never could be, any man but you," she whispered, and the next moment she was in his arms, lip to lip, as heart to heart, and all the sorrow and bitterness of the parting, the loneliness of the long weary years between, were as if they had never been.

And back in the great store a young assistant was lifting the broken fairy, almost weeping because it was beyond repair.

"Poor thing! Its day is done," she said a little sadly, but an older saleswoman who had witnessed the whole scene reassured her.

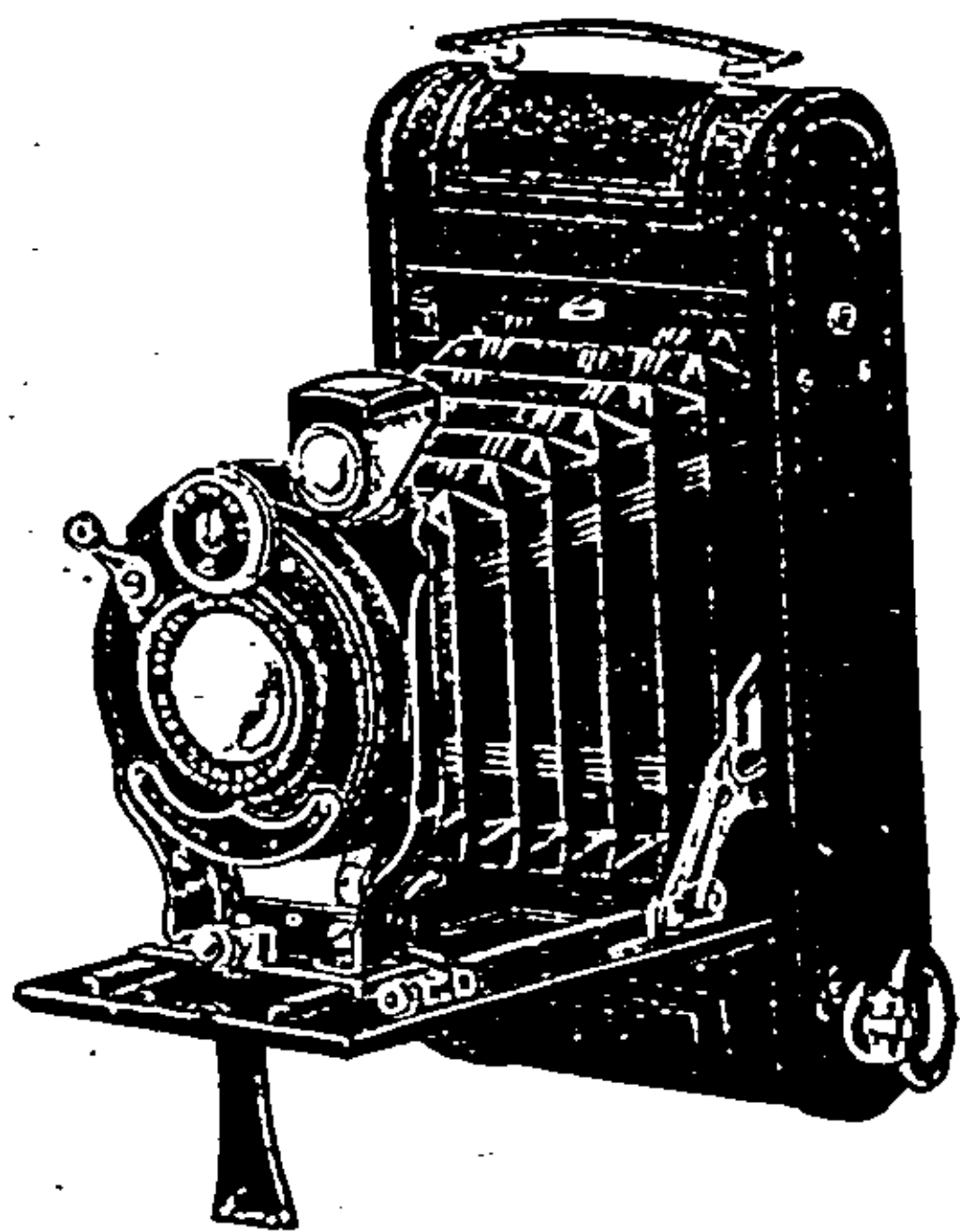
"It has done its work, dear, brought a real Christmas into two lives. I fancy somehow it will be claimed after the holidays, so put it safely aside."

And if it was Jennings' wonderful fairy which welcomed Chrissie's daddy and mummy home early in the New Year, it was the broken one, smiling even in death, which went with Ruth and Ian Graham to their home across the seas.

And soon—very soon now—Ruth will be able to tell its story to the little daughter who came to them on a still more wonderful Christmas Eve.

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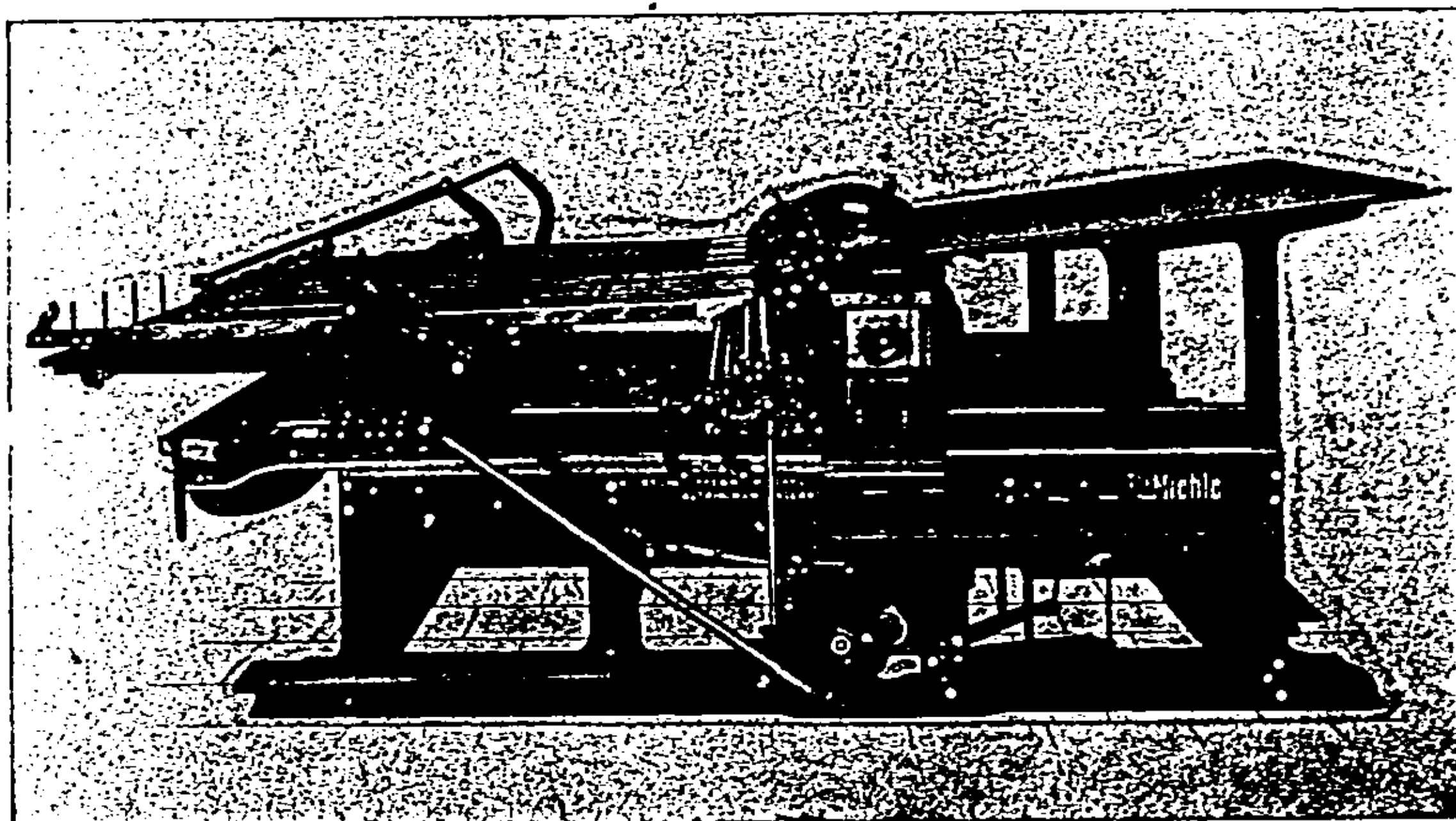
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Games For Your Party



GOOD games for your party are sure to be wanted, and very probably you will be asked to suggest a few games when you go to other parties, so you had better learn a few new ones.

Finding The Arrow

Here is a game something like hunt the thimble, but it is even more interesting. Cut a dozen pieces of paper about an inch long, and point one end so as to represent an arrow. While the rest of the players are out of the room the leader hides the arrows, putting them in such a position that a part of the point is slightly exposed. Then the players are called in and the one finding most arrows in the time arranged wins, and has the advantage of hiding them the next round. You will be surprised how many hiding places can be found for the little arrows.

The Magic Mirror

Much fun can be obtained at a party from a magic mirror. Ask your mother to lend you a hand mirror, and on it draw with a piece of French chalk a sentence or a funny face. If you polish the mirror lightly with a silk handkerchief the writing will disappear. Then hand the mirror to someone, and ask him to breathe upon it, and tell him he will see something appear which will be of special interest to him. If you have drawn the head of a goat, or monkey, or donkey, there will be much laughter. If you polish the mirror lightly again the experiment can be repeated, and the mirror handed to another member of the party.

Singing Proverbs

One player must go out of the room and the rest stay inside. While he or she is away you think of some proverb, say, "A stitch in time saves nine." One of the players must go round to the others and give to each one one of the words in the proverb. One will have "A," another "stitch," another "in," and so on.

Call the player into the room and then all start singing your own particular word to some well-known tune such as "Rule, Britannia." Supposing you are "stitch," you sing "Stitch, stitch, stitch, stitch," all to the tune, and someone else will be singing, "Time, time, time," and another "Saves, saves, saves," and so on.

The player who has come into the room has to walk round and listen and try and guess what the proverb is. He has three guesses, and when he guesses right the player who gave him the clue is sent out of the room, and you choose another proverb and start all over again.

Blind Man's Banquet

Blindfold games are always popular at a party, and one of the funniest is the Blind Man's Banquet. Two of the smallest boys or girls are blindfolded, and seated on the carpet about a yard from each other, and near each is placed a plate with two or three small pieces of bread and butter on it. The players are not supposed to speak, and to use only one hand, and at a given signal to feed each other. This is a good deal more difficult than it seems, and the attempts to find each other's mouth causes

much laughter. Time for the completion of the meal is taken and compared with that of another pair of players, and those who take the shortest time get a prize.

A Robin Legend

There are many legends about the robin, that little bird with the red breast that we are all so fond of, and which looks so cheerful hopping about on the snow at Christmas time. Here is one pretty story about the robin:—

When all the earth was covered with ice, ages and ages ago, there was only one fire in the land, and that was in the North.

The fire was guarded all day and all night by an old man and his son, for it was very precious. Not far away there lived a big white bear. He loved the cold, and hated the people of the land. Always the bear watched for an opportunity to put out the fire. He thought if once he could stamp it out, the world would be cold all over, and then he would be happy. One day, while the man's son watched the fire he got drowsy, and fell asleep.

Stealthily the bear crept out of his den and trampled the fire out. But there were still a few sparks burning, which he had not noticed. A robin, who was watching, guessed how unhappy the people would be without the fire, so he hopped down from a tree and fanned those few sparks into life with his wings. But the robin's breast became scorched with the heat, and it turned a flaming red. That is how he got his red breast, and after that, wherever the little robin flew the earth became warm and pleasant to live on.

Riddle-Me-Ree

If a man walks into a room full of people and places a new penny on the table what does the coin do?—It looks round.

What is that which belongs to yourself, but is used more by your friends than by you?—Your name.

What trade is it whose best works are trampled underfoot?—That of a shoemaker.

What is that which the more you take from it the larger it grows?—A hole.

A Card Trick

Take twelve cards out of the pack and tell your friends that you can arrange them in rows in such a manner that they will count four in every direction.

To do this place nine of the twelve cards in three rows, so as to form a square; then place one of the remaining three cards on the first card of the first row, the second on the second card of the second row, and the last on the third card of the third row. They will count four in every direction in this way, as you will see.

An Animal Square

How many animals are in the animal square below. You may begin at any letter, you can move by any next letter on either rows, files, or diagonals. Thus from M on the last line you can proceed M-U-L-E. If you make the correct moves you will find twenty-five animals.

O I B H A C O
S N Y R M D L
X F L E T I L
R O H E N B E
C W P A B F D
E U T I R O F
L M N E G A T

What Are We

We are a score, nay, sometimes more,

Within a cave reside;

Though seldom 'tis we disagree,

We often do divide.

If we fall out, there is no doubt

We ne'er shall meet again;

Both boy and girl our worth can tell,

Though oft we cause them pain.

In white array the ladies gay

In mirth will often show us;

From what is said, we are afraid,

You will too quickly know us.

Answer: Teeth.

A CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN

(Continued from Page 30.)

bering. The torches were planted in the snow when the church was reached.

Another church service is at ten o'clock and then there is the evening service.

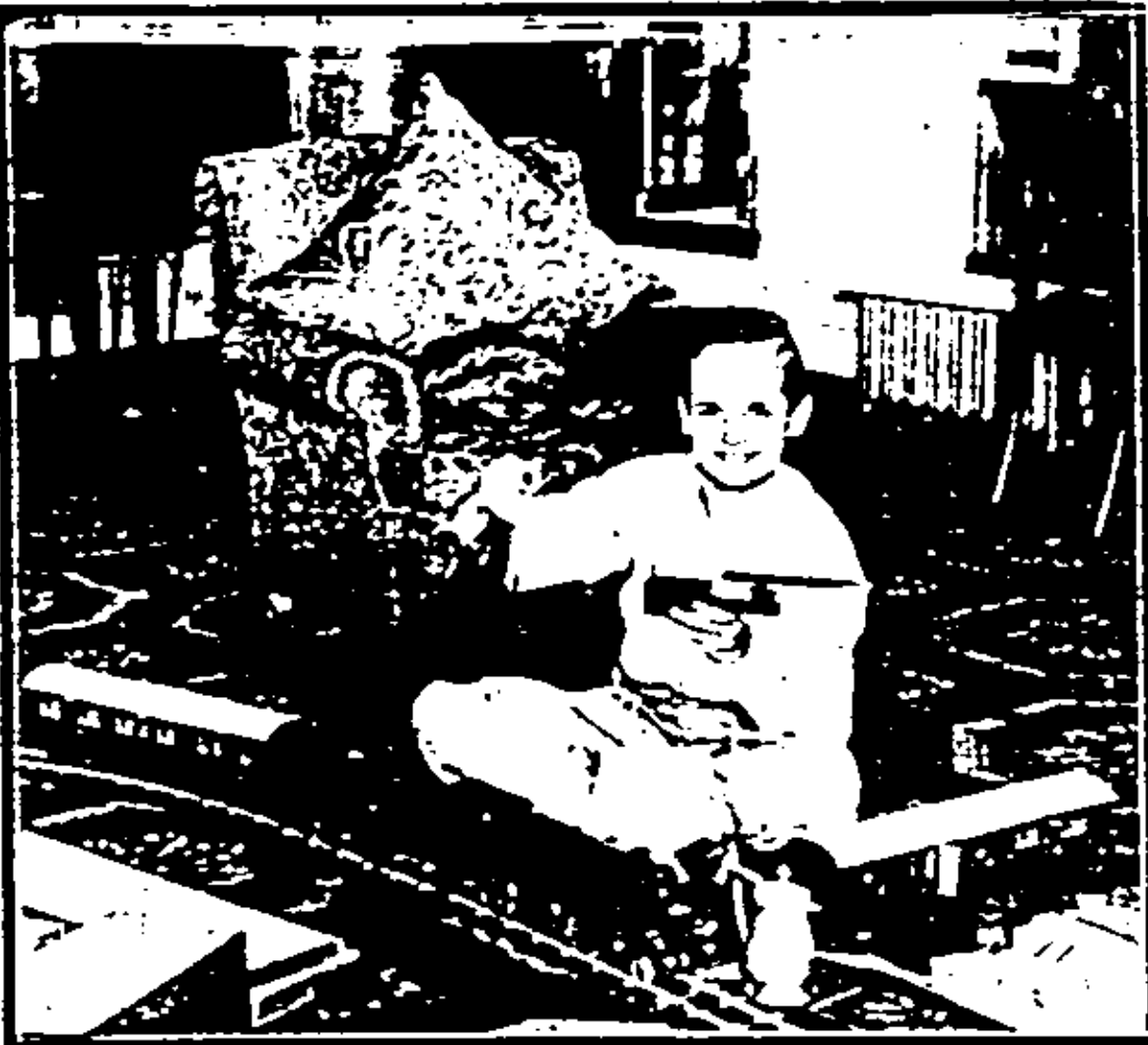
Christmas Day Dinner

Dinner on Christmas Day has its traditional dishes. The guests may stand while enjoying "Smorgasbord." They visit and chat until their plates are removed.

The main meal is served at the table with the guests seated. The first course may be a clear soup with tiny meat balls in it. The meat course may be either roast young pig or chicken. The head of the pig is decorated with a paper frill behind the ears, and in the open mouth is a bright red apple. Often there is more than one kind of roast.

A special ceremony is connected with this meal. Its Swedish name is "Doppe i gryten," which is "dipping in the pot." A sauce from ham is prepared on the kitchen stove. Slices of rye bread are served to everyone and all must parade to the kitchen to dip bits of bread in the pot and eat them. It is most important not to let the bread get too soft and fall off one's fork.

JACKIE COOGAN'S TOYS



The famous juvenile film star is seen filling up the engine's spirit container of a steam model locomotive which he liked best of all toys.

CHRISSIE'S CHRISTMAS FAIRY

By M. C. RAMSAY



RUTH Elson was humming softly to herself as she packed her suit-case with all the new "pretties" which had meant much scraping during the past few months. She was going "home" for Christmas for the first time in five weary years. True, the old home was no longer there, but there were still many real, true friends in her native Scots town, and it was with one of these the holiday was to be spent. And there was just a chance that Ian Graham—on leave from the Far East—would also be feeling the home pull, and—her eyes grew softer—surely the spirit of Christmas would make it possible for them to overlook all the bitterness of their last parting, when he had falsely accused her of letting another man make love to her, and the Scots pride of her would not let her deny the charge.

"We were both hot-headed young fools," she told herself. "I have paid with those lonely years of struggle; but, of course, Ian may have been quite happy and contented. But even though he should only want to renew the friendship, nothing more—"

But there she paused, even in her thoughts. It was not only friendship she wanted. She longed, hungered, craved for his love. Other men had wooed her, but she had listened to none. Her girlhood's lover—she owned it at last—still held sole sway over her heart.

Ian's Critical Eyes

And that was really why she had spent more than she could afford in buying new clothes. She wanted to look her best, her fairest, in Ian's critical eyes.

She lifted a gown of the soft blue he had always liked, and laid it against her cheek. She went to her mirror. Had her beauty faded a little in those years of strain and stress-filled City life? Her smile was a little wistful as she put the question to herself. She had not answered it when the door opened, after the slightest of taps.

She wheeled round. The smile faded. The woman who entered was plainly in distress.

She flung out both her hands in pathetic appeal.

"I hope you don't mind me coming right up, Ruth. Mrs. Williams said I might. She is busy with her Christmas cooking. It seems to be Christmas with everybody but me."

"What is wrong now, Edith?" said Ruth, a trifle impatiently. Edith Kenyon was apt to wear out the patience of her friends. "Have Jim and you fallen out as to which family is to be honoured with your company this year?"

Lying Dangerously III

"Oh, Ruth how can you? But didn't you know? I telephoned to your office, but you were not back from lunch. They promised to give you the message. Jim is lying dangerously ill in Edinburgh. I have to go to him on the night train, and—and I haven't the money for the fare, and—and you are the only friend I could ask it from. You see, you are the only one who knows how I got into debt, and—and the struggle it has been to get out."

"Edith—oh, my dear, I am so sorry!" Warm-hearted Ruth had both her hands

now. "I—I haven't got it either. I will only have a pound or two over after I pay my own fare home. I really should not be affording the trip at all, but—"

"Ian Graham is likely to be there. I had a letter from his cousin. Of course, I can't expect you to miss the chance of getting him back, especially now that he has inherited all that money. So don't upset yourself to help me," with a touch of bitterness. "I'll manage somehow, sell something before I stick."

But Ruth had forgotten Edith's trouble, anyhow for the moment. She was staring at her with wide, amazed eyes.

"Ian has inherited money. I never knew. And I suppose Fairhaven is saying I am going north in order to try to—to catch him again on account of that."

Fierce Pride Not Dead

The fierce pride had not died after all. It had only been asleep, and not very soundly at that.

"Oh, my dear, no one who knew you—" Edith began, but Ruth interrupted sharply.

"I know what Fairhaven tongues are! I won't go a step now. So you can have the money, Edith. Besides, I wouldn't have been happy spending it on myself," she added, in kindlier tones, "when real friends like you and Jim were in need. I can have quite a good time in London, Edith. The Morleys have asked me to stay with them. The new glad rags will all come in useful there."

"Ruth, are you awfully keen on the Morleys?" said Edith. "I—I know it is awful cheek, but—well, I was also counting on you to stay in our house and look after the children. You see, I had promised to let Mary home for Christmas. She is the best maid we have ever had, and if I stopped her holiday she would give notice certain."

A Big Order

Ruth's smile was rather a crooked one. She was fond of children, but to have sole charge of the Kenyon pair was rather a big order. Still, it was one of friendship's insistent calls. And—again, pride had its say—it would be a very reasonable excuse to send for not going home.

"All right, dear," she said, "in for a penny, in for a pound! I suppose I had better come back with you now, and see you safely off from King's Cross."

Edith began to pour out her thanks, but Ruth stopped her rather brusquely. It was no real spirit of self-sacrifice, she told herself.

There had been no real need for sacrifice, for Edith had much wealthier friends to whom she could, and should, have applied for the financial aid. But there was no one but Ruth, she knew right well, who would have cheerfully and successfully taken charge of the children. They had too great a reputation as "a pair of pickles" for that.



Thus Edith soothed her conscience as she watched Ruth unpack her finery and put her ordinary clothes in its place.

"All your pretties will come in useful later on, dear. Unless—Oh, do put back that white lace frock. You could use it to dress up as a fairy on Christmas Eve. Chrissie has set her heart on Santa Claus ending the big Fairy Queen from the top of Jennings' big tree to fill their stockings this year. Of course, I told her it was quite impossible, but if you only would!"

Ruth laughed outright. The demands of a child-enslaved mother were too amusing for words.

"Well, I'm not exactly of fairy-like proportions, dear," she said, "but I daresay I'll manage to please the kiddie. Don't you worry, Edith, everything will go all right. You just think of Jim, and getting him made well again."

When they got to the Kenyon home the children shouted with glee. To have Auntie Ruth to stay—to have her all to themselves for three whole days—would go far to make up for daddy not coming home and mummie having to go away.

Ready To Promise Anything

They both wept bitterly, however, when the actual time of parting came. And Edith in her distress was ready to promise anything.

"Darlings, you must let mummie go. And you will be good. And Auntie Ruth will write to Santa Claus not only to send a fairy to fill your stockings, but one—just a teeny one—perhaps, to Chrissie for keeps. And Jimmy will get his fairy cycle after all—but only if you are good."

And she gave never a thought as to where Ruth was to get the money to buy them with or where a fairy was to be found at all.

"You're so clever, Ruth dear. You'll manage somehow. I know you will," she said, and Ruth, her heart full of sympathy now, answered cheerfully:

"Of course I'll manage. Don't worry!"

And when she got back from the station wee Chrissie started up in her cot and called out;

"Auntie, dear, have you written to Santa yet?"

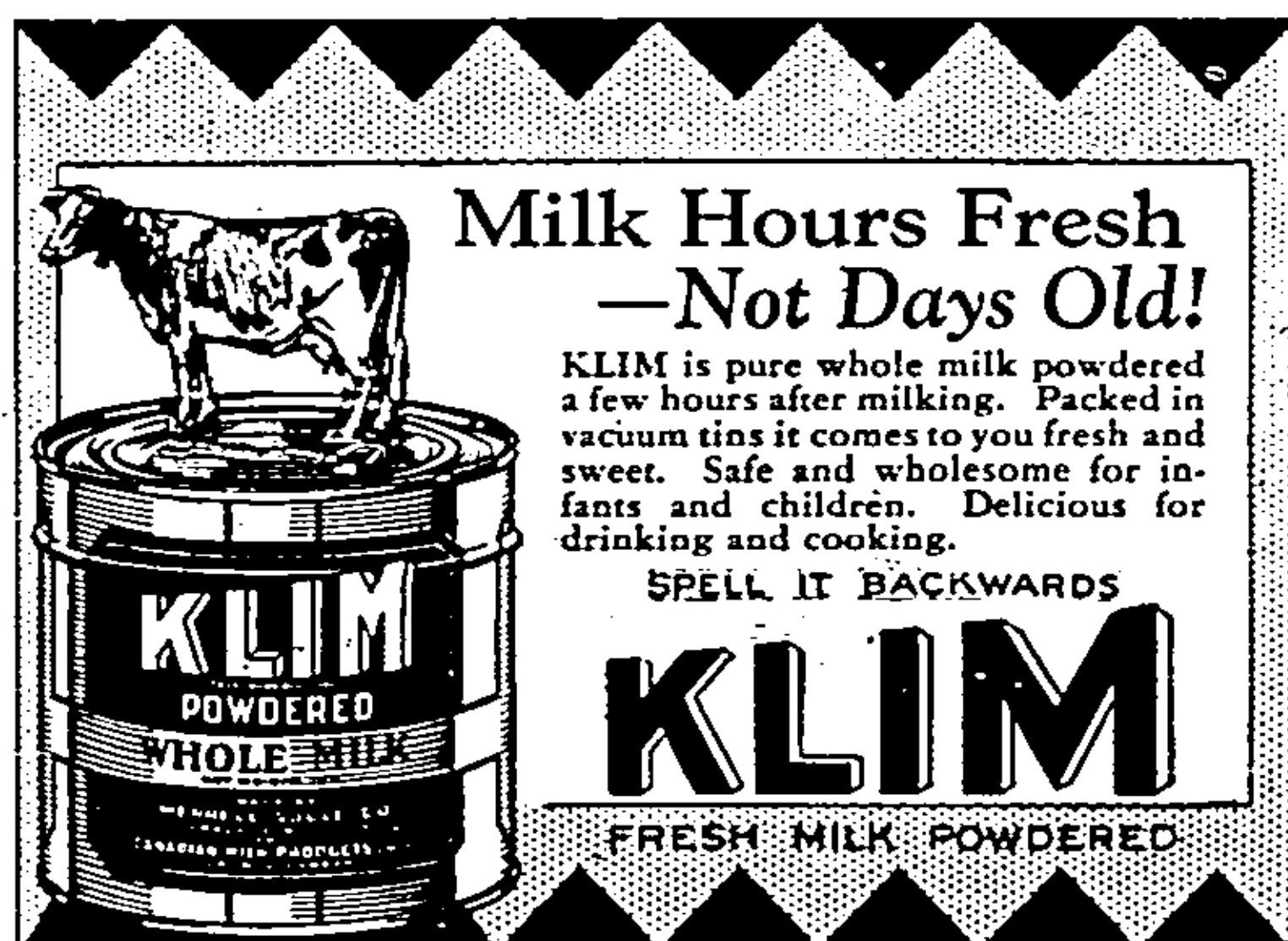
"No, darling, but I will, and post it, before I go to bed. But you know there isn't very much time now, so you will be quite pleased, won't you, if the fairy you will get instead of a doll—for you know you can't have both—isn't very big? Fairies ought to be very, very tiny, anyhow."

A Fairy For A Stocking

"Just about that size, Auntie Ruth," said Chrissie, stretching out her hands. And Ruth sighed with relief. The doll which she had sent to go into Chrissie's stocking could doubtless be exchanged for a fairy of such small dimensions.

The fairy cycle was bought at lunch-time next day, as a big toy emporium was close by the office. But the shop where she had got the doll was up in Oxford-street, which meant a hurried rush there before going home. But, alas! they could neither exchange the doll nor provide a fairy.

(Continued on Page 6.)



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Société



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IMPERIAL CANDY CO., SEATTLE, U.S.A.

Sole Agents:—

CONNELL BROS. COMPANY,

David House, Des Vœux Road C.

Let's Go Shopping

ARTS AND CURIOS

Well, then there are arts and curios. What about making a present of something in this line to your business friends, or to the ones you left behind in your home town? Surely they all welcome something from far off Cathay. Komor and Komor is the store for you.

What sort of a Christmas pudding are you going to have on that day? Before you decide go and consult the Prince's Cafe. Many are booking their orders now with this cafe, and you might do the same, if you want a nice delicious pudding for Christmas.

A gift that will last and be long treasured is a camera. The recipients will find a great deal of pleasure out of it. Buy him or her a Foth. It is the gift that will please offered at a special reduction.

If you wish to have yourself remembered by those who are dear to you, then get them a watch for a Christmas present. At Ullman's you will find a varied selection, but none is better than "La Captive." It is the latest and finest watch in the world—the product of the famous Tavannes Watch Co.

Christmas Day is a holiday, and doubtless many of you will be taking a spin around

A SILK COAT

Why remain in doubt any longer? Anything you want for Her can be found at the Bombay Silk Store. No women will appreciate any thing more than a silk coat, a silk shawl, or in fact anything that is silk. If you want anything for "him," too, the Bombay Silk Store have it.

A thoughtful man or woman will always select cigarettes for a Christmas present. Capstan cigarettes always bring fond memory of the giver, because they are always welcome.

Another store where useful Christmas gifts can be found is the Pioneer Silk Store. In addition to silk kimonos, houri coats, shawls, etc., they also have a nice collection of jade, ivory and cloisonne wares.

Attractive handbags and novelties always make useful gifts. You will find a nice selection of these at the Elite Styles. Your lady friend will appreciate something in this line.

the Island or across the New Territories. A jolly good way of spending the day, but see that your cars are lubricated with the right oil. A breakdown will mar the enjoyment of the day. Shell Oil is the right lubricant for every type of cars, and therefore why not use it in yours.

AROUND THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Chocolates are always appreciated by the young and old. The kiddies also love them. Nowadays you can get them in nice attractive boxes—just the very thing for a Christmas gift. Make your choice at the Blue Bird.

Societe Chocolate is particularly in demand at this time of the year. It is the very thing for all occasions. You can get it at the Blue Bird and the Cafe Pavillion.

Serve plenty of cocoa on Christmas morning and also let your children have it for their tea party. The best brand is Bournville. It is sustaining and invigorating.

Before you hang up that beautiful bunch of mistletoe and holly, see that your rooms are freshly painted in order to look their best. Matroil Paint will do the trick. It dries quickly and is most economical to use. For colours to suit your rooms, give Berger Paint a trial.

The Oriental Supply Co. wish you all the best compliments of the Season, and ask you to call at their offices at No. 16, Connaught Road, Central, where they have a display of canned goods, and will give you full particulars regarding the various lines they carry.

Christmas & New Year Announcements

PENINSULA HOTEL.

Tuesday, 31st December, 1929.
Wednesday, 1st January, 1930.

New Years Eve Carnival (8 p.m. to 1 a.m.)
Special Tea Dance (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

HONG KONG HOTEL.

Thursday, 26th December, 1929.
Wednesday, 1st January, 1930.

Boxing Night Carnival (8 p.m. to 1 a.m.)
Special Tea Dance (4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.)

REPULSE BAY HOTEL.

Tuesday, 24th December, 1929.
Tuesday, 31st December, 1929.
Wednesday, 1st January, 1930.
Wednesday, 1st January, 1930.

Christmas Eve Carnival (8.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.)
New Years Eve Carnival (8.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.)
Special Tiffin (Orchestra 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.)
Special Tea Dance (4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.)

MOTOR COACHES FROM REPULSE BAY HOTEL:—After Christmas Eve Carnival and New Years Eve Carnival.
To Hong Kong Hotel, 1.15 a.m. To Peak Hotel, 1.15 a.m.
SPECIAL FERRY FROM KOWLOON.—After New Years Eve Carnival, 1.30 a.m.

DINNER...\$4.00 per person. SPECIAL TIFFIN...\$3.00 per person. SPECIAL TEA DANCE...\$1.00 per person.
EVENING CELEBRATIONS FANCY OR EVENING DRESS.
Tables for the above may now be reserved at any of our Hotels.

PENINSULA HOTEL CAFETERIA AND MAC'S CAFETERIA.

Our Expert Swiss and French Pastry Cooks and Confectioners will have ready a varied assortment of Festive Season Specialities—
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KOMOR AND KOMOR

for

ART AND CURIOS

St. George's Building.

Chater Road.

Let's Go Shopping

YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas Dinner is an event everyone looks forward to and one cannot be too careful in planning it. Make sure yours is a successful one by obtaining your turkey and other good things at the Dairy Farm. Orders should be booked early.

If you want to give a present that will be appreciated, or better still, if you want to make your Christmas Party a real success with good entertainment which entails a negligent amount of "fag" get a radio set and just tune in after dinner. Sincere's carry a fine range from inexpensive crystal sets to elaborate cabinet radios.

Give something really thrilling to your wife, sweethearts, sister, or even mother, this Yuletide. Nothing can please a lady more than the specially selected gifts to be found at Pamela's—charming handbags, gloves, umbrellas, flowers, handkerchiefs, ornaments, dainty novelties, silk hose, and afternoon dresses evening gowns and cloaks also, all so dear to "milady's" heart.

A lot of the enjoyment of your Christmas fare depends on the cooking of it. It will be cooked to perfection if you use the (W)right cooker which is, of course, a gas cooker. The Hong Kong and China Gas Co., Ltd., can supply Wright's cookers in two sizes—the "Eureka New World" gas range, and the "Maisonette," which, of course, is admirably suited for a small flat. Visit the showrooms at Ice House Street, or Jordan Road, Kowloon, and let them demonstrate them to you.

SHOES AND HOSIERY

Shoes and hosiery make very acceptable Christmas gifts for ladies, but they must be footwear of quality. For shoes or hosiery of the better kind give Gordon's in Kayamally Building a look in in the course of your Christmas shopping and let their gift expert make a suggestion. If you buy from Gordon's you can't go wrong.

Silk! What can be more welcome to the ladies, and men, too, than something made of this fine, soft, shiny fabric? The best silk dainties are to be found at the Kashmir Silk Store, the "House of Quality and Reliability." Here you will find for "her" pretty silk kimonos, houri, opera and Persian coats, only to mention a few of "sure-to-please" gifts; whilst for "him" there are, among other things, silk ties and handkerchiefs, shirts, and morning gowns.

36 SUGGESTIONS

"Eve," in Kayamally Building, the Mecca of things feminine, have thirty-six suggestions for Christmas presents for ladies and children, ranging in price from 40 cents and up. See their unique novelties, too. You are bound to find something unusual and at the same time serviceable or ornamental which will solve your "What-to-give" problem.

You will like to look your best at that Christmas dinner which you are attending. Well, why not choose your Christmas wear from Mme. D'Orby's Store at 18, Queen's Road Central, where you will find a choice assortment of evening gowns, fur coats, hats, etc., at most reasonable price.

Gifts to satisfy every taste can be found at the Colonial Dispensary, which is always to the fore with helpful suggestions to the harassed mere male gift hunter looking for something worthwhile giving at Yuletide. They have the latest and best in French perfumes, tasteful toilet requisites, and the choicest British chocolates, fresh stocks recently unpacked.

KOWLOON'S HAMPER

The Kowloon house wife need not go far to get the family's Christmas dinner, the Peninsula Hotel Stores has every thing that goes to make this the Yuletide Event it should be. Their Christmas specialities are Turkeys and geese (Canadian or local), British, Australian and Canadian hams and bacon, selected Canadian fish, and a choice assortment of Christmas crackers and table decorations.

"What to Give." Don't let that problem trouble you unnecessarily. Here are suggestions of gifts that are bound to please: Perfumes, Chocolates, Cigars, Cigarettes. They are all obtainable in dainty presentation boxes at Messrs. A. S. Watson and Co., Ltd., who stock only known, reliable makes. The same applies to their stock of wines, etc., the harbingers of good cheer at Yuletide.

THAT LAST TOUCH

Don't Forget It When Packing Parcels!

Who does not love a Christmassy-looking parcel? A few years ago our thoughts never soared above brown paper and ordinary string, but now we have changed all that, except, of course, in the case of parcels which have to go by post.

To begin with, it is quite a good idea to use coloured paper to wrap up the various packages. This not only looks much more attractive than brown paper, but it is much more pliable and amenable to folding. Fine twine is now made in all colours, or if it is a very dainty parcel, gold or silver thread could be used. Both practical and decorative, too, is the gummed adhesive ribbon that is sold in small rolls, and is quite inexpensive, the scarlet poinsettia printed on white or gold, holly and similar seasonable designs, giving a very decorative touch to the parcels adorned with them. There are, too, all sorts of gadgets that help to make your packages look festive and exciting—delightful little seals and labels and tags of decorative design, bearing the "presentee's" name.

Those who understand the true spirit of Christmas know that it is not the money value of a gift that counts. It is the affection and thought which have gone into it. That is why the careful and dainty packing of your parcels counts for so much.

FOR "HIM"

This paragraph is written especially to assist ladies who are looking for presents for "him." Any gift that comes from Powell's is bound to be appreciated, because he knows he has a present worthy of the giver when it bears the Powell label, which signifies reliability, good value, and good taste in things masculine. This store with the old-time Christmas spirit has a complete range of men's wear from dressing gowns, to ties, tie presses and key purses. Everything is of undeniable quality and reasonably priced.

The true Christmas spirit is Bols Silver Top Gin which brings with it good cheer. If you drink Bols Gin you will know what's best and your friends who know, and who doesn't, will respect you for knowing. It may sound Irish but it's sound argument, really! The sole distributors for Bols Gin are Messrs. H. Ruttonjee and Son but it is obtainable everywhere in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

RADIO'S ROLE

Let Radio play the leading role in your Christmas festivities; it's an entertainer that will be popular with everybody. The Asiatic American Co., is the Christmas Radio Headquarters for Gifts. Let them show the Crosley set high in quality and low in prices. They have many models now on display and would be pleased to demonstrate to you at any time.

For the morning after the night before, nothing is more refreshing than Klim. Read it backwards and you know what it means—pure whole cow's milk that is hours fresh, not days old. Klim is powdered a few hours after milking, packed in vacuum tins and comes to you at any time fresh and sweet. If you have a tin of Klim it is just like having a cow in the house, a little water added to the powder does the trick. It is delicious for cooking as well as drinking.

BEAUTIFUL GIFT BOOK

What Christmas gift can be more appreciated than a book which gives hours of pleasant companionship? But it must be a book that interests the recipient. As everybody is interested in drama you are sure to please if you send a copy of the beautiful Gift Book, "The Chinese Drama" from the earliest times to the present day, by L. G. Arlington, late of the Chinese Postal Service. It is published by Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., and contains a foreword by Dr. Herbert A. Giles and a "pien" by Mei Lan-fan, the famous present-day Chinese actor—premier of the Chinese stage. The edition is limited to 750 copies, so book yours early.

Christmas Gift hunting is a real pleasure if you hunt in the right place. When you are out on such an expedition, don't fail to look in at D. Chellaram's in Pedder Street, opposite the Hong Kong Hotel. They have gifts that cannot fail to convey just that expression of good-will at Yuletide and still be appreciated for many days to come. Gifts for both sexes, too numerous to mention, can be found there.

When Loxley went aboard his ship he found the people busily engaged in repairing the havoc wrought by Captain Bobstay's clumsiness, as Loxley was pleased to call it. The old freighter was still in her old position, and the clouds of coal-dust were flying freely, but the wind had shifted and the Hyacinth was no longer smothered by the flying foulness.

"Dorothy Was Dorothy"

"Smack it about," Loxley ordered. "Miss Soames is coming down to tea, and I don't want her to see the ship looking like a pigsty." With the result that when his sweetheart tripped over the gang-plank the section of the ship through which she must pass, at any rate, was shining. Dorothy Soames looked so charming that Loxley lost his head. A married captain inevitably lost a certain amount of popularity among lady passengers, and among the people who travelled by the Hyacinth were often marriageable girls with considerable fortunes; but still—Dorothy was Dorothy. She had a small fortune in her own right, too; but had she been penniless Loxley would probably have fallen in love with her just the same.

"I'll tell you what," he said enthusiastically, "since we're scheduled to be back for Christmas, sweetie, let's celebrate the season properly and get married."

This was after he had dilated on Captain Bobstay's heinousness. Dorothy, after maidenly demur, decided that such a thing might be possible. Why not be married at Christmas? It was a time for giving, and there were no obstacles, anyway. They could have married months before, only that Loxley had selfishly considered his career before his sweetheart's happiness.

Crown On Her Happiness

So that when Dorothy waved adieu to the stately Hyacinth she did it with the full assurance that the ship's return would set the crown upon her happiness. And Harold Loxley, when the Hyacinth, full to capacity with enthusiastic home-going Christmas passengers, left her port and turned her bow to the east, was conscious of pleasant anticipatory thrills. Among the liner's passengers were not so many pretty marriageable girls as usual, perhaps; most of the people were middle-aged and married, except for the children. There were a hundred and twenty youngsters among the complement.

"We'll give 'em all a proper party the day before we land," Loxley suggested to the purser. "Santa Claus, Christmas tree, and everything complete, eh? Give them a Christmas they'll never forget! If the weather only keeps decent, that is."

He himself, he decided, would enact the role of the Christmas saint. It would give him a chance to display his talent for amateur theatricals, of which he was proud. Usually, in the shipboard plays that were staged he was wont to play the part of the gallant hero who performed Thespian miracles. He made his preparations, with a dozen women passengers to help him. The barber's shop was looted for gifts, and a tree was devised by the chief carpenter out of a boat's mast and various evergreens. It promised to be a party of parties—one that would linger in the youngsters' memories for years.

Screaming Inclemency

But the weather failed to co-operate with the enthusiasm it might have shown. Three days before Christmas Eve it began to blow, and every hour increased the screaming inclemency. It came away with terrible intensity from the stark north-east, kicking up a sea that caused the Hyacinth to roll and pitch to a degree unbelievable. Whole water washed her forward deck, and

the hammer of the falling seas was deafening.

During the middle watch of the morning of December 23 Captain Harold Loxley, snatching an uncomfortable doze in the bridge chartroom, was aroused by a sudden jarring shudder that fetched him out on deck with the velocity of a cork leaving a popgun. The entire engine-room seemed to have gone suddenly mad. The engines were rioting savagely—until they stopped with a queer suddenness that was disconcerting.

"Well, what's wrong?" Loxley demanded.

"Don't know yet, sir; there was a shock —" The telephone from the engine-room rang. Loxley took himself to the instrument.

"Either she's dropped her screw overboard, or she's stripped the blades," he was told. "Did she hit anything?" The night was inky black, save for the ghostly sheen of the high-running seas with white crests hissing and snorting. It was impossible to see anything. Actually, the Hyacinth's roaring propeller had touched a fragment of floating wreckage, all unseen by the look-outs, and this had stripped the blades as neatly as if the work had been done in a dockyard ashore. Single-screwed as she was, she was as helpless as a mud-scow.

Soft Places In Structure

There was really very little that could be done. The weather was worsening, and the promise of the barometer was affrighting. Loxley felt a queer increasing emptiness in the region of his solar-plexus. He



knew more about the Hyacinth's weaknesses than he had ever admitted to a living soul. There were soft places in her structure, and what was promising would find them out, probably with fatal thoroughness. Helpless as she was, the liner might conceivably tear her boilers adrift and send them crashing through her bottom-plates to the Atlantic floor, whither the ship herself would swiftly follow. There were four hundred and fifty passengers and a crew of three hundred men. Harold Loxley was responsible for all. He did a lot of confused thinking in a remarkably short time.

"Get canvas on her aft—keep her up into the wind," he ordered, racking his brains for the sea-lore which he had neglected in the hunt for social acquirements. "If not she'll roll the funnel out of herself at this rate!" The hitherto ignored canvas was got up and bent; but it didn't do much good. The Hyacinth was not built for sail, and she was too big and unwieldy for the small amount she was able to spread to take effect. She wallowed swinishly in the increasing troughs of the waves. Big seas boarded her with thorough-going earnestness, and ominous crashings announced the havoc wrought among her boats. Something of a panic was already setting in amongst the passengers below, and through a ventilator giving on the upper bridge Loxley heard the affrighted chorus of children's screaming.

Sea Anchor Rigged

"We'll have to rig a sea-anchor!" he declared; "we've got to keep her bow on to these big fellows!" Accordingly, with slavish, heartbreaking labour, a sea-anchor was rigged. Two men were broken to ruin in the doing of it; but once the contraption

was lowered overboard its effect was apparent. The disabled ship rode more easily, bowing the waves that were slowly sleeked with oil. Reluctantly, realising the helplessness of his ship, reflecting on how this mishap would reflect upon himself, and how pitying silence instead of sycophantic flattery would greet him when next he entered the captains' room of the Port of Call, Loxley gave orders for the broadcasting of a wireless message asking for assistance.

The weather worsened before a reply was received. It was from the Cromlech, westward-bound with the mails. She was altering course and could save life, but that was all. Not that abandonment of the Hyacinth seemed necessary at the moment. She was keeping afloat, though the chief engineer secretly communicated the news that the derelict wreckage had done even more damage than rid the screw of its blades. The ship was leaking, not hopelessly, but enough to keep the pumps working full-bore. Loxley had a vision of the sufferings of the children and women if it became necessary to tranship them through raging seas which were chill as ice.

As he had gone down to the foredeck to superintend the construction of the sea-anchor, Loxley was drenched to the skin and frozen stiff. The spindrift that hurtled freely everywhere congealed as it fell, and the Hyacinth shrouded herself in ice. He went to his own cabin for a shift of clothes. The first object on which his eyes fell was the red, furred robe in which he had proposed to enact the role of Santa Claus. He laughed sourly as he bundled it together and flung it into a corner of his swilling floor. He had made such glowing plans for Christmas!

Specious Falsehoods

Changed from the skin outward, he returned to the deck; but before he mounted to the bridge he altered his mind and went below to reassure the passengers with specious falsehoods. The great main saloon, the most ornate room afloat, its owners claimed for it, was crowded almost to capacity with frightened women and whimpering children. The glittering Christmas decorations appeared oddly out of place.

"Everything's all right," said Loxley, less convincingly than he could have wished. "There's been a minor accident, but we'll soon set things to rights. Don't fret—we'll all be safely home for Christmas yet." But the passengers looked at him sceptically. The ship was making a mess of herself, and the word had gone round that, fierce as the gale was at present, it promised to be infinitely worse before it improved.

The day of the 23rd passed horribly. Daylight revealed a horror of white-lipped sea running devastatingly under a yelling sky where the lowering storm-clouds swung dizzily. Night settled down again. A message was received from the Cromlech to say that she was doing her best to reach the spot, but that the weather conditions were against her progress. Nightfall brought a marked increase in the rigors. Christmas Eve dawned laggardly, to show a blacker sky and a higher-running sea, with the Hyacinth taking bitter punishment. The sea-anchor was crumbling away piece by piece, and several more of the boats were smashed into matchwood. A dull, piteous apathy was growing among the passengers. Boat-work across that storm-swept expanse of white water seemed an actual impossibility. The barometer was pumping menacingly, giving awful promise of even worse weather to come. The chief engineer was seriously alarmed about his boilers, although he was doing everything humanly possible to avert disaster by means of extra shores. But his

(Continued on Page 12.)



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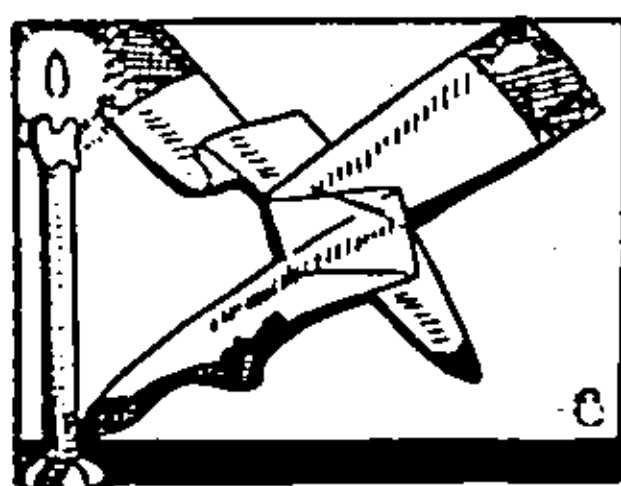
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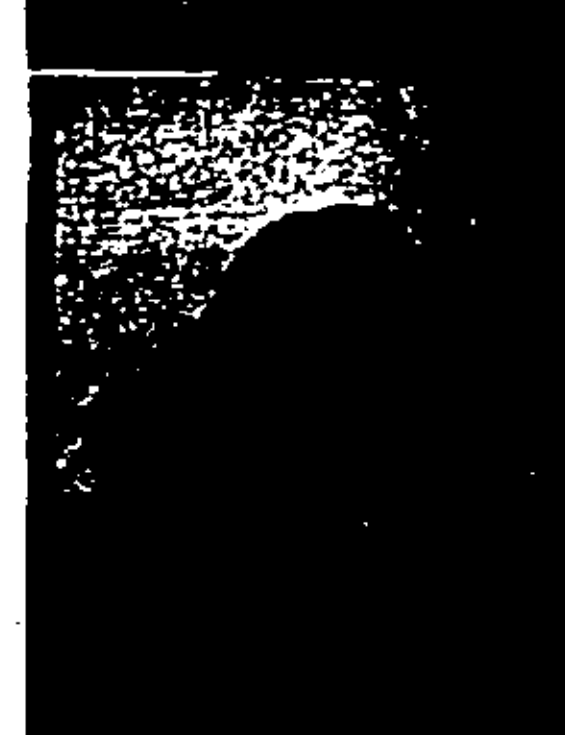
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Christmas Supplement 1929.

HONG KONG, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1929.

1

A SANTA CLAUS OF BLUE WATER

By FRANK H. SHAW

"Why, it's old Daddy Christmas again!" guffawed Captain Loxley, and other occupants of the captains' room at the Port of Call joined him in merriment. Loxley made an exaggerated bow to the address of the newest comer, and greeted him. "Santa Claus, I presume?"

"No, sir; why, no, sir—Cap'n Billy Bobstay, that's me, sir," responded the white-bearded, white-haired entrant. "Of the s.s. Mercury, as you'll likely remember." Among the smart youngish men the oldster seemed shabby and inefficient. His clothes, nautical in cut, belonged to a bygone generation, when men were not afraid to advertise their connection with the sea to all who chanced their way. In every way he lacked smartness. His hands were scaly at the back, and so bent that they seemed everlastingly to be gripping a rope.

"Yes; I remember," said Loxley, and collected the eyes of his associates. "You're the old fossil who slumped his ash-cart of a dirty tramp clean to windward of me and started discharging coal just when we'd white-painted all the superstructure. A devil of a no-sailor-like job that was." The old man's manner became more deprecating than even as Loxley's voice rose to a rasp. He seemed totally out of place in the captains' room. "Don't you think you'd be better in the public bar?" asked Loxley, insultingly.

"Why, sir, that's as may be; but when I mentioned to the young lady out there that I was a passed master-mariner, sir, she just sort of naturally sent me in here. Might I ask the company to name its likes—"

"I don't drink with every freighting-skipper!" said Loxley, a sneer in his tone. The old man flushed.

A "Small Mischance"

"I hope there'll be no offence about that small mischance, sir," he pleaded. "They told me to go to that berth, so I just went. And the dockmaster did say that your fine ship, sir, wasn't where it belonged."

"She was where I chose to put her. Anyone that pretends to be a sailor ought to have known."

"But I didn't know that you were new-painted, captain, and, orders being orders, I just obeyed them."

As some of the smart youngsters laughed at that Captain Loxley waxed angry. He strode up to Captain Bobstay and shook a finger in his face. "Why don't you go away?" he asked in an intolerant voice. "We don't want you here, that I can see.

This isn't the place for a no-sailor old fossil that doesn't know the first thing about his job. Whom did you serve your time with, anyway, Noah?" He took hold of the flowing white beard and sneeringly shook it. "Put a red dressing-gown on, and tie some holly round your head and pretend you're Father Christmas; that's about all you're fit for," he advised.

Like The Accepted Picture

The old veteran did, indeed, look remarkably like the accepted picture of the Christmas saint. Robbed in red, with cotton-wool draped about him and a Christmas tree in his arm, and a bag of toys on his back, he would have been perfection. By contrast with the spruce young fellows who commanded crack liners, he showed as an anachronism.

"Oh, let him alone, Loxley!" protested Gavin, of the Tyburn Tree. "Likely enough he was seafaring before you were thought of."

"Then he hasn't learned his job." Everyone knew that Loxley, although they had given him command of the Hyacinth, was a bit big for his boots. He was a man who paid great attention to the social side of seafaring. He was considerably liked by romantic ladies who made passage in the liner, for he had an imposing presence, and his manners, with them, were perfect. He could tell a good story, generally dealing with his own prowess. He posed as being the complete Beau Brummel of deep water—a man who was loud in his protests that the dignity of the merchant marine should be maintained ashore and afloat.

Old, Pathetic Figure

Captain Bobstay bowed with clumsy grace to Captain Gavin, and disengaged his beard from the insulting hand. "Thankee, sir, thankee, young sir!" he chirruped cheerfully. "But, seeing that I'm not welcome here, I'll just make myself scarce!" And he left the room, an old, pathetic figure, who was a full generation behind the times.

"What's the good of trying to keep up the status of the cloth when you get old has-beens like that letting you down at every turn?" demanded Loxley intolerantly when the door had swung to. He surveyed himself approvingly in a near-by mirror, settled his tie, and sleeked his sleek hair. He smirked at the tow-headed barmaid, who had watched Captain Bobstay's exit somewhat pityingly. "What do you think the old fossil did? He brought his old ash-can

of a filthy freighter alongside me in dock, scraped my paint—"

"I saw that," mentioned Grant, of the Kohinoor. "It was when the tow-rope parted—and it was the tug's own rope; so you couldn't blame the master of the ship for that."

Devil's Own Mess

"Well, he made a devil's own mess; and then he started unloading his filthy cargo so that every bucketful drifted across my new white paint!" roared Loxley; "and can you imagine what Captain Digby had to say when he came aboard and found us smothered in muck?" He fumed on, and then said: "Come and have a drink, all you fellows, anyway." They accepted the invitation, because it was the fashion of the port to keep on good terms with Harold Loxley, who, men said, would go ahead like smoke. He was already spoken of as the future marine superintendent of the Flower Line, although he was as young as he was; and marine superintendents, whether actual or potential, are men with whom it is well to keep in favour.

"When are you sailing?" Gavin wanted to know over the tumblers.

"To-morrow; and getting back for Christmas, which is one good thing. We're picking up a whole shoot of folks coming home for Christmas, so we'll be a full ship. You can't get away from it, Gavin, the Hyacinth's popular. We always skim the cream of the passenger traffic."

Flower Line Lucky!

Gradually Loxley's self-complacency was restored, as he thought of his own magnificence, and his associates praised his ship and covertly himself. He studied his good-looking reflection in the mirror many times, and decided that the Flower Line was uncommonly lucky in getting such a figure as himself to command their ship. It was quite true that the Hyacinth wasn't a quadruple-screwed, twenty-five knot flier—a ship that made the Atlantic crossing in five days without troubling any more about the hardest weather than if it was a zephyr; but she was a fine ship, and one that you could trust. She was especially constructed for a social side of seafaring, with hand some accommodation; and, though there were some who thought the Flower Line might have spent more on their engine rooms and hulls generally and less on antique oak fittings and Persian carpets, they were jealous people who had not obtained command in the line at an almost phenomenally early age.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Picturesque Interiors of Houses

Quite nine-tenths of the thousands of Christmas trees come across the North Sea, particularly from Holland, where their cultivation is a side line with the farmers and market gardeners who flourish in South Guelderland and the provinces of Utrecht and Limburg.

Upon this side-line the Dutch vrouw smiles approvingly. For a plantation of firs, pines, or Norway spruce—all "Christmas trees" in the trade if not all of the same commercial value—may determine the number of gold "cap" ornaments in her treasure chest, and whether her husband's velvet coat is studded with gold or silver buttons.

Christmas trees in Holland are generally grown on boggy land useless for anything else; and the custom has arisen among prosperous country folk of setting aside the cash returns of that particular bit of land for the purchase of some purely personal ornament.

It matters not that perhaps ten years may lapse between the sowing of the first tiny seedlings and the long-looked-for November when, after three transplantings, the trees are ready for their final unrooting—the time of waiting rather enhances the value of the coveted possession when it does arrive.

Glittering Headdresses

In that way many a Guelderland family has acquired the glittering headdresses it is customary to give the girls of that province at their confirmation. And a costly enough cap it is, being of gold metal beaten to fit the individual head, and having a hole at the top for ventilation.

Dutch farmhouse interiors, picturesque indeed when summer suns are glowing, are draughty places at this time of year. But a farmer's wife circumvents the winter blasts and the chilliness of her stone floors by the *test*, a little metal stand full of burning peat, which she pops into her footstool,

GOING RIGHT UP



How would you like to soar up on skis as this fortunate individual is doing on the snow clad hills?

a kind of wooden box with a perforated lid. These little stools are very comforting, and are to be found all over Holland. Most Dutch women in the country districts even carry easily hire them from the sacristan. Baby's them to church, and those who don't can feet are also kept warm, in pretty much the same way, for his high-backed wooden seat on wheels has an opening underneath for a little pot of burning peat.

EXIT "XMAS"?

From America there is news of a grand attack on "Xmas"—not on the thing itself, fortunately, but on the abbreviation. Leaders of the churches in New York complain that it is "lacking in reverence," and, according to the "Daily News," sermons are to be preached and wireless address delivered against usage. It is one that can at least claim a considerable antiquity, for the "x" here is no unknown quantity, but really stands for the Greek "chi" as the first letter in the Greek spelling of "Christ." A capital "X" was used as an abbreviation in such words as "christen" and "christened" almost as soon as there was any call to write those words at all in the country.

Coleridge Quoted

On the same principle "Xmas" was later established and has been in use for many generations without rebuke. Coleridge used the contraction with some freedom in his familiar letters, and though Coleridge had many failings, neither a lack of reverence nor a disrespect for the English language is usually reckoned among his shortcomings. But in America "Xmas" has managed to offend the sensitive eye, and it is proposed that even advertisers shall not be allowed to use it. It is idle, one supposes, to point out nowadays that it was in origin something of a scholar's contraction—in popular usage the Greek significance of the "X" has been forgotten and "Xmas" tends to be pronounced exactly as it has been written for short.

Still, it is rather curious that an age which, more than any of its forerunners, inclines to specialise in abbreviations and strings of initials should be found objecting to a form which represents, in essence, one of the very earliest contractions of the Christian era.

A THRILLING MOMENT—WHEN A BOB SLEIGH CURVES

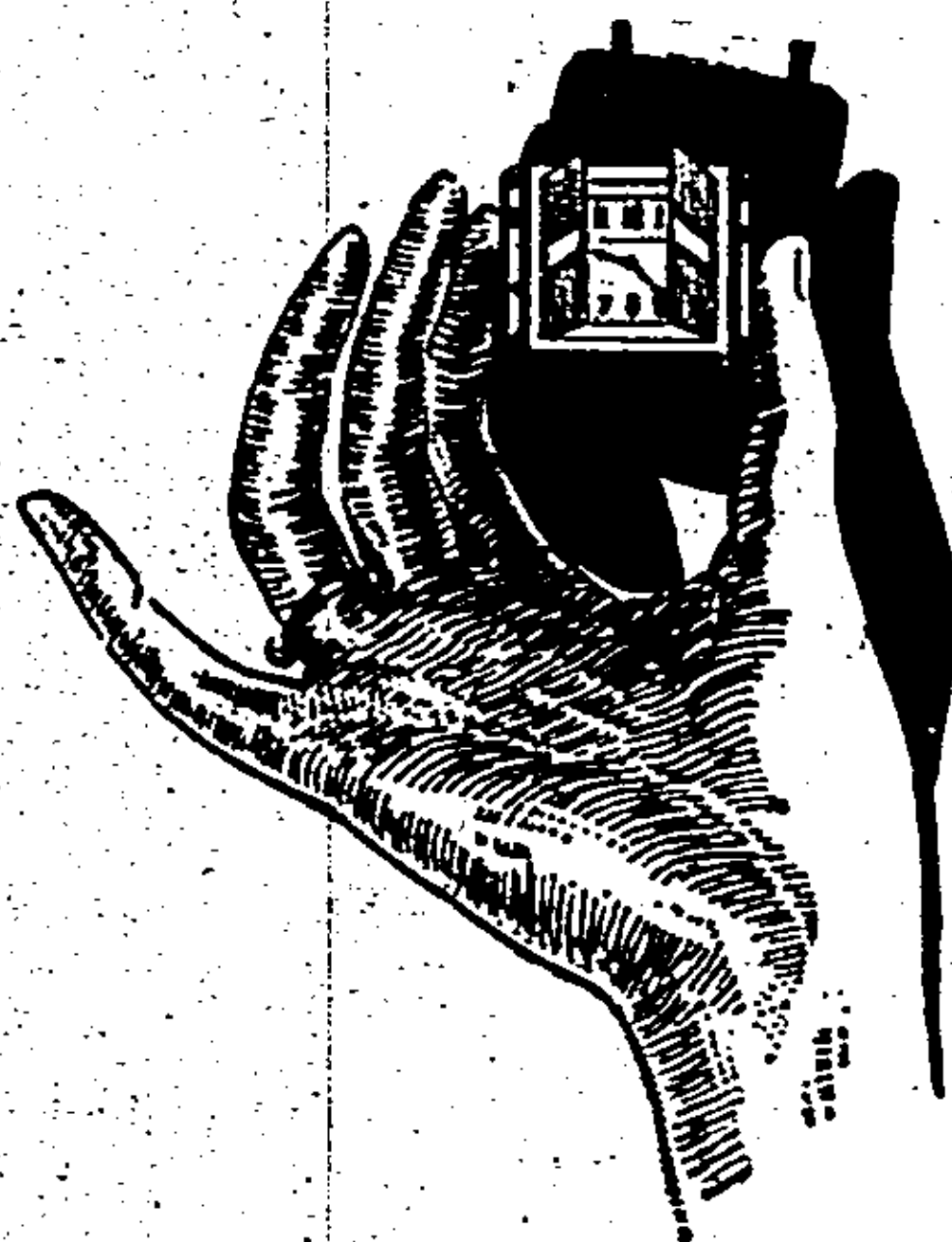


One of the most enjoyable forms of Christmas sports is bob sleighing. Note how the "crew" lean over, in making a turn, as they do in motor-cycle-combination races.

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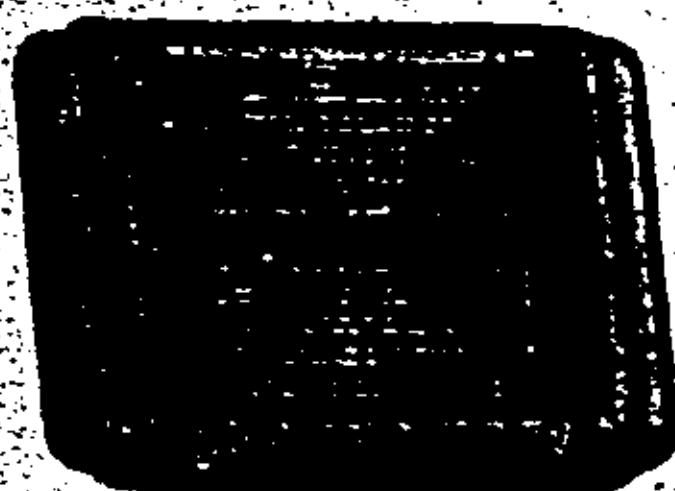
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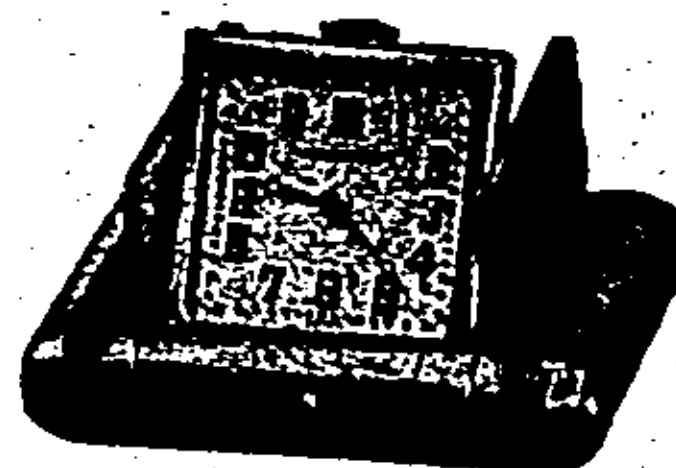
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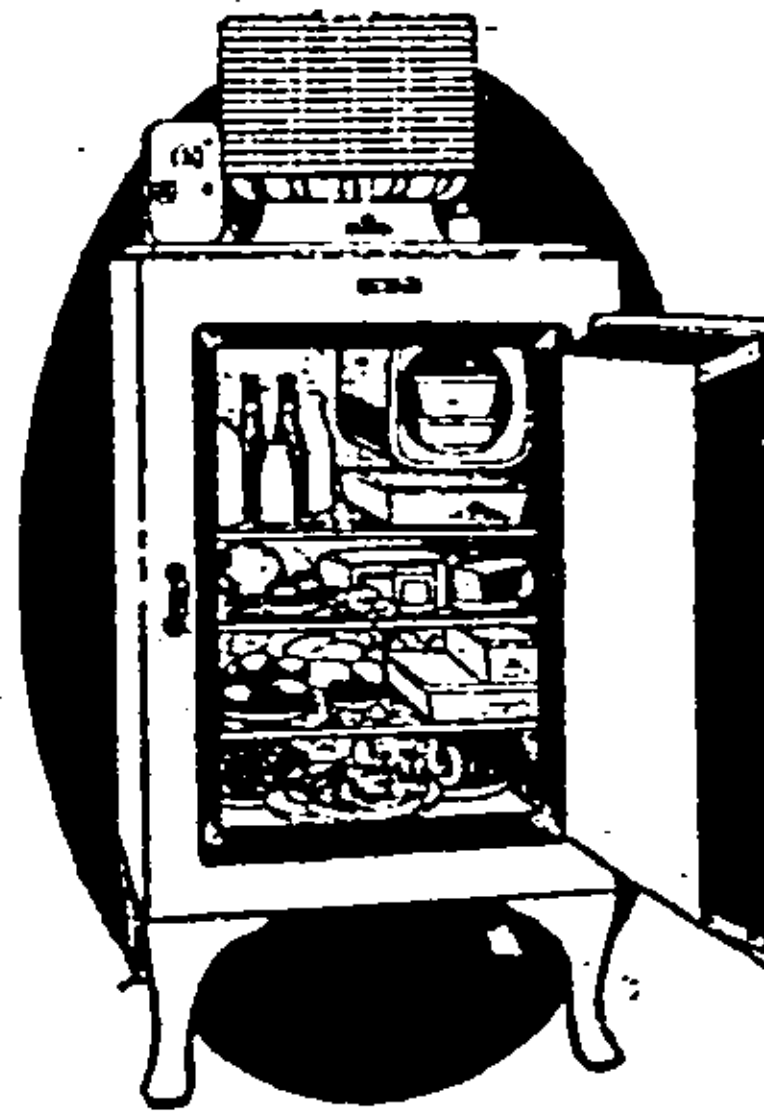
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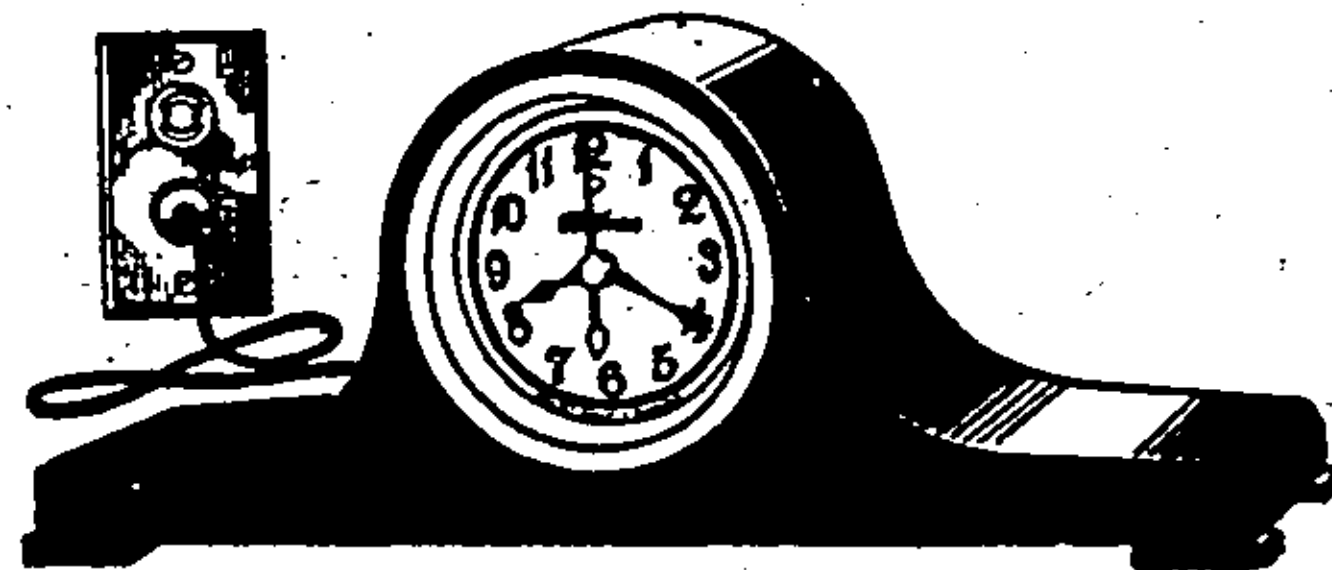
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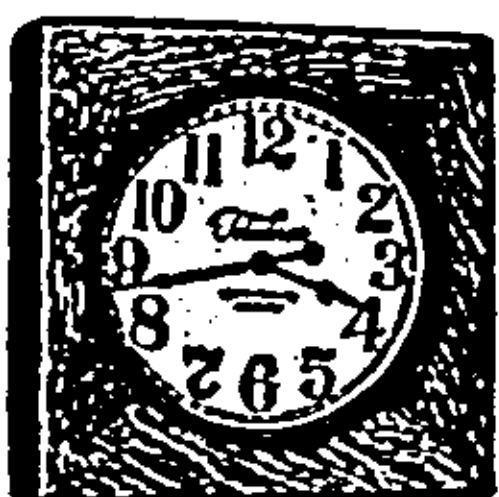
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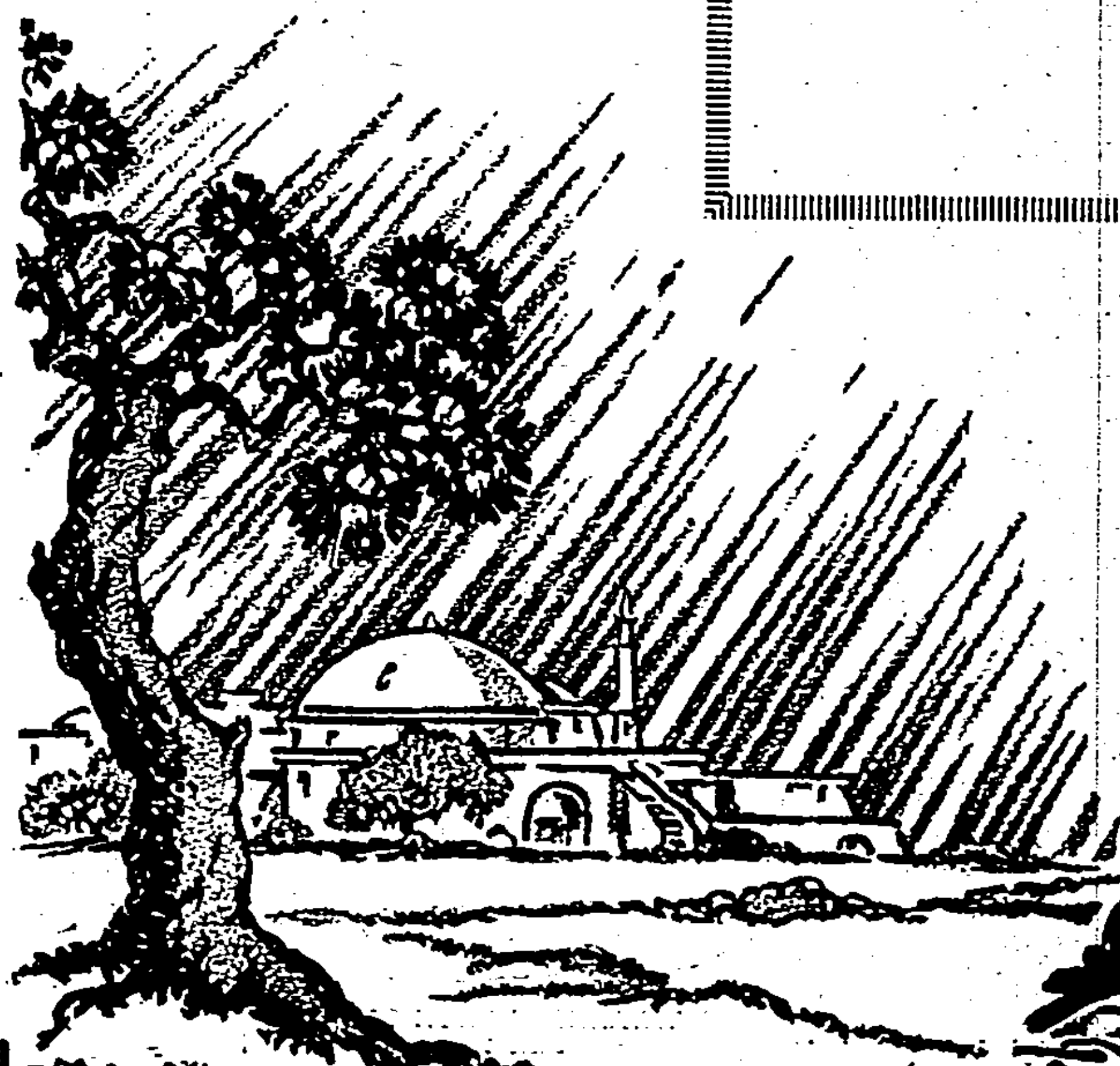
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